

# Harding Academy Christmas Chorus Concert

December 4, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.  
O. O. Emmons Auditorium



Ms. Andréa Campbell, A Cappella Director

Mr. Rob Brannon, Middle School Chorus Director

Mr. Trent Williamson, President

Mrs. Ashley Lipe, Upper School Principal

Mr. Corey Cunningham, Middle School Principal

Mr. Eddy Efaw, Fine Arts Division Leader

# Program

Middle School Chorus  
Mr. Rob Brannon, Director

- The Christ Child is Born** .....Roger Emerson
- African Noel**.....Victor Johnson
- Rounds for Christmas**.....Gerard Jaffe & Morton Siegel
- 4. Snowflakes
  - 5. Sing a Melody
  - 6. The Snowman
- Calypso Lullaby**.....words and music by Jester Hairston  
.....additional words and setting by Joel Raney
- Ugly Christmas Sweater**.....Jill Gallina
- A Jolly, Jingling Carol Medley**.....Greg Gilpin



A Cappella Chorus  
Ms. Andréa Campbell, Director

**Betelehemu** .....Nigerian Christmas Carol  
.....Via Olatunji and Wendall Whalum, arr. Barrington Brooks

*We are glad that we have a Father to trust.  
We are glad that we have a Father to rely upon.  
Where was Jesus born?  
Bethlehem, the city of wonder.  
That is where the Father was born for sure.  
Praise, praise, praise be to Him.  
We thank Thee for this day, Gracious Father.  
Merciful Father.*

Mr. Luke Davis, percussionist

**Mansions of the Lord** .....Nick Glennie-Smith

**Hear My Prayer** .....Traditional Spiritual, Moses Hogan

**Carol of the Bells** .....Ukrainian Carol  
.....music by M. Leontovich, arr. Peter J. Wilhousky

**Fare Ye Well** .....arr. Jester Hairston  
Mr. Jim Chester, tenor

**My God and I** .....Austris A. Wihtol

**The Lord Bless You and Keep You** .....Peter C. Lurkin



# Musicians

## Middle School Chorus

### Soprano

Rae Brannon  
Abigail English  
Brooke Love

### Alto

Jordan Butler  
Lydia Cloer  
Lydia Green

### Tenor

Caleb Kelsey  
Addie Payne



## A Cappella Chorus

### Soprano

Victoria Brooks  
Bethany Cloer  
Francesca Cobb  
Leia Harper\*  
Rhegan Hunter#  
Madison Harris#  
Skylah Johnson  
Alexandra Rice  
Julia Turner

### Alto

Niya Evans  
Emily Green  
Olivia Hamm  
Londyn Harper  
Jillian Heckendorf&#@  
Josie Heckendorf  
Emily Hunt  
Destiny Johnson  
Esther Leyshon  
Garner Meredith#  
Aerial Newton\*  
Elena Parkhurst\*&#@

### Tenor

Camden Barber&  
Justin Barham  
Johnathan Dance\*  
Jayden Mays  
Kaeden Whartenby#

### Bass

Eli Brown  
Bruce Cooper  
Luke Davis  
Donovan Long#  
Case Nowlin  
Brendan Whartenby\*#

\* Senior  
& All Southwest Sr. High  
Honor Choir  
# Quad State Honor Choir  
@All State Honor Choir

### **Greetings and Merry Christmas to you all!**

What a year it's been already! Although we've shrunk in numbers by exactly half, "The Elite Eight" have grown immeasurably in heart, tenacity, and zeal for making beautiful music together. As we're halfway through this school year, I am eager to get into the spring semester and begin work toward our Choral Performance Assessment (CPA) in early April. And then at the end of April, we'll present our spring concert. And we'll try to squeeze in a few special performances here and there as we're able.

My hope and prayer are that this evening brings you some joy in this Christmas season. We are thrilled to share the fruits of our labor as we "glorify the Lord, edify the Church, and unify the World, especially through the beauty of music and the truth of the Gospel!"

Christmas Cheers!

Rob Brannon



### **Good Evening and Merry Christmas!**

Thank you all so much for joining us for this evening's concert. It has been an absolute privilege to be back at Harding and serving as the Director of A Cappella Chorus. I couldn't have asked for a better group to begin my time as director with. A Cappella has grown to 32 students this year, one of our largest groups since the pandemic. Our freshman class is strong and has made immediate impact on our group, and our Seniors are leading us well by modeling a standard of excellence in all that they do. From life-long singers to new-found musicians, our group is full of diverse musical experiences.

We hit the ground running this year, as we kicked off the year with a performance at the White Station Worship Night. October was filled with preparation for All Southwest Sr. High and Quad State Honor Choir auditions. I am so proud of the 9 students who participated in honor choir auditions, as they were **all** accepted into their respective honor choirs and performed in early November. A Cappella branched out and represented Harding well through their performances at Preview Day, Veterans Day, and Alumni Chapel. To close out the semester, we have begun preparations for our winter musical "Seussical." This cast is talented, motivated, and excited to bring some of our

favorite childhood book characters to life. I encourage you all to join us February 15-17, 2024, to experience this amazing show full of fun, laughter, and life-long lessons on friendship. I am looking forward to the spring semester, as we dive deeper in preparations for The Choral Performance Adjudication Festival (CPA).

I want to take the time to thank several people who work behind the scenes to support the Fine Arts here at Harding Academy. Thank you to Mr. Trent Williamson, Head of School, for committing to honoring the Lord in the way He serves the Harding community. If there is any kind of concert, game, or art show going on, Mr. Williamson can always be found supporting teachers, students and coaches with his presence and words of encouragement. Mr. Williamson is a man after the Lord's heart, and the Harding community is blessed by his servant leadership. Thank you to Mrs. Ashley Lipe and Mr. Corey Cunningham, our upper school and middle school principals, for the way that they champion our students in all that they do. Mrs. Lipe and Mr. Cunningham are intentional about supporting students in a way that helps them develop into well-rounded people who will love the Lord and serve His people. I am grateful for their grace, flexibility and full support for myself as well as the choruses this year. I look forward to the ways that they will bless our Harding family as they lead us well.

Thank you to our Fine Arts Chair, Mr. Eddy Efaw, for all that he does to advocate for the arts as well as support us as teachers to keep our hands to the plow. We are grateful for all that you do. Thank you to our amazing Fine Arts Assistant, Mrs. Dawn Gilreath. She is the backbone of our program and is always willing to jump right in and help in any way necessary. What a gift Mrs. Gilreath is to us here at Harding. Thank you to Dr. Scott Frizzell and Mrs. Jamie Barber, our incredible sound and tech team. There is no way that we can do what we do without their selfless efforts and attention to detail. Thank you to Mr. Colby Canterbury and Mr. Rob Brannon, my co-laborers in this work. From the moment I started, Mr. Canterbury and Mr. Brannon have been helpful and willing to answer any and every question I've had. Transitioning into a new position can be challenging; however, the kindness that they have shown me has lifted the heavy load. I am honored to serve on a team with Mr. Canterbury and Mr. Brannon.

My hope and prayer for this evening is my same prayer that I shared with A Cappella at the beginning of the school year. I pray that every piece sung, every word spoken, and every moment experienced is a pure worship unto God- "a rehearsal of the the New Creation."

May it be so.

Andréa Campbell ('16)

Director K-12 Vocal Performance | A Cappella Chorus Director



### **Upcoming Fine Arts Events**

#### **Pottery Sale**

Main Lobby

December 9, 2023 | 4:00-6:00 PM

#### **Band Concert**

O.O. Emmons Auditorium

December 9, 2023 | 6:30 PM

#### **A Cappella Chorus Performance at Deck The Diamond Light Spectacular**

Autozone Park

December 16 | 7:00 PM

#### **Harding Academy Talent Show**

O.O. Emmons Auditorium

February 2, 2024 | 2:30-3:00 PM

#### ***Seussical***

O.O. Emmons Auditorium

February 15-17, 2024

#### **Jazz Lites**

Highland Church of Christ

February 24, 2024

#### **Taste & Tunes**

April 6, 2024

#### **Spring Chorus Concert**

O.O. Emmons Auditorium

April 29, 2024

## Support The Endowment for Excellence In The Fine Arts

In 2013 the Endowment for Excellence in the Fine Arts was established by the Sisson Family to support and enhance the fine and performing arts programs at Harding Academy. If you would like to partner with us in continuing the work of the Fine Arts here at Harding Academy, scan the QR code below to view our giving site.

