

EASTERN
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL of MUSIC & DANCE

In collaboration with The American Choral Directors Association

Presents

SING FOR JUSTICE, MICHIGAN!

**An interdisciplinary event that calls for musicians artists and scholars to
consider their role as ambassadors for change**

With performances and special guests:

Stacey Gibbs, guest conductor

Shara Nova, presenter

Detroit Women's Choir, Arianne Abela

EMU Choral Ensembles, Brandon Johnson, Liza Calisesi Maidens, & Aaron Pollard

MSU Youth Chamber Choir, Kyle Zeuch

Oakland University Choral, Mike Mitchell

Student & Faculty Panel, Harry Bhogal

Peter Higgins, Women's and Gender Studies Department

Michael Doan, Philosophy Department

Mary Larkin, LGBT Resource Center

Candice Crutcher, Nat'l Assoc. for the Advancement of Colored People &
Director of Political Action for SGA

Amy Johnson, Communications, Media & Theatre Arts

Friday, November 10, 2017

Pease Auditorium

Welcome!

The Eastern Michigan University Choral Department and the Michigan American Choral Directors Association are so pleased to welcome you to Sing for Justice, Michigan!

Music has always been way for people to express themselves and the call for justice is not new to our age. We each understand that the arts have a role to play, and that is why we are here. To understand and to maximize that role is critical to the artist and we are here to discuss the intersection of arts and justice issues.

While we have differences among us, the arts can be a common ground for people of myriad backgrounds, whether those variations be political, religious, cultural, or otherwise. Today we celebrate these differences and we gather to examine how we can help inspire others to celebrate them, as well. EMU and ACDA-MI are thrilled to host renowned composer and arranger Stacey Gibbs, singer-songwriter Shara Nova from the band My Brightest Diamond, and a variety of other presenters and performing ensembles as they seek to find ways to use the arts for justice issues.


Our world is in a state of unrest. We are grappling with injustice in many forms, racism, sexism, ageism, and the unequal government regulation. While progress has been steady in nearly every area we consider the arts as a powerful tool for raising awareness and creating change. We hope that today's event will be an opportunity for each of you to evaluate your role as an artist and to motivate you to contribute to the elimination of injustices in all forms.

We are so thankful for your presence at Sing for Justice, Michigan! and we welcome you with this in mind: *all are welcome here.*

Sincerely,



*Brandon Johnson, DMA
Director of Choral Activities
Eastern Michigan University
Express*



*Liza Calisesi Maidens, MM
ACDA Women's Choir R & R
Conductor of the EMU Women's Choir &*

SING FOR JUSTICE, MICHIGAN!

Schedule of Events

9:30am **Welcome/Registration**

9:50am **Warm-up**

10-10:30am **JOINT REHEARSAL WITH STACEY GIBBS**

10:30 am Justice Statement: Amy Johnson, Communications, Media & Theatre Arts

10:45 am Festival Choir Rehearsal

11:15 am Justice Statement: Student Panel Discussion, Harry Bhogal, *moderator*

11:30am **Justice Sing/Festival Choir Rehearsal**

12:00pm **Introduction of Non-Profits**

12:10-2:00pm **Conversations at Lunch**

The role of artists in cultivating equality, what can we do?

Politics and music... nothing to fear but fear itself.

Speaking about someone else's culture

2:15-3:45pm **PERFORMANCES & JUSTICE STATEMENTS**

2:15-2:45 Performance: Oakland Chorale, Mike Mitchell

Don't Be Afraid

Allyson Reigh, arr. Jennifer McMillan

We are United

Michael Engelhardt

2:45-3:00 Justice Statement: Women's and Gender Studies Department, Peter Higgins and
Philosophy Department, Michael Doan

3:00-3:15 Performance: MSU Youth Chamber Choir, Kyle Zeuch

Even When He Is Silent

Kim Andre Arnesen

Please Stay

Jake Runestad

3:15-3:30 Justice Statement: LGBT Resource Center, Mary Larkin

3:30-3:45 Performance: EMU Express & Evergreen, Liza Calisesi Maidens & Aaron Pollard

Hallelujah/Let Me In

Alicia Keys; arr. Jolene Green

Shed a Little Light

James Taylor; arr. Greg Jasperse

3:45-4:15 **BREAK**

SING FOR JUSTICE, MICHIGAN!

Schedule of Events (continued)

4:15-5:45pm PERFORMANCES & JUSTICE STATEMENTS

4:15-4:30 Justice Statement: Nat'l Assoc. for the Advancement of Colored People &
Director of Political Action for SGA, Candice Crutcher

4:30-4:45 Performance: EMU Women's Choir, Liza Calisesi Maidens

Amavolovolo	Traditional Zulu Dowry Song arr. Rudolf de Beer
Recitation IX from Considering Matthew Shepard	Craig Hella Johnson
Deer Song from Considering Matthew Shepard	Craig Hella Johnson
Poem: When I Am Among the Trees	Mary Oliver
Bright Morning Stars	Appalachian Traditional arr. The Wailin' Jennys

4:45-5:00 Justice Statement: Shara Nova from My Brightest Diamond

5:00-5:15 Performance: Detroit Women's Chorus, Arianne Abela

Ain't gonna let nobody turn me round	J. David Moore
O Sister	Kathleen Allan
Rise and Stand	Arianne Abela
This Is What Democracy Looks Like	Elizabeth Alexander
Shining Star	Shara Nova

5:15-5:45 Performance: EMU Choir, Brandon Johnson

WOVEN VOICES

Moonlight Sound Design	Raimonds Tiguls
Indodana	arr. Michael Barrett & Ralf Schmitt
Exultate Deo	Francis Poulenc
My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord	arr. Moses Hogan

5:45pm Closing Sing

6-7:15pm Dinner and Transportation to Ann Arbor (*on your own*)

8:00pm CHANTICLEER Concert (*optional*)

Hill Auditorium - 825 North University Avenue - Ann Arbor, MI

About Our Performers:

Arianne Abela, Detroit Women's Chorus

Arianne Abela currently directs the Women's Chorale and Choral Union at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI and serves as the Director of Music at Bethlehem UCC in Ann Arbor, MI. Abela is the founder and conductor of 3 Penny Chorus and Orchestra, a volunteer orchestra and chorus of 60 that was recently featured in the quarterfinals of America's Got Talent(Season 8) at Radio City Music Hall. Abela has a doctorate from the University of Michigan under the tutelage of Jerry Blackstone, and a master's degree in conducting from the Yale School of Music under Marguerite Brooks, Jeffrey Douma, and Simon Carrington. Abela was selected as one of ten to participate in the Dallas Opera's inaugural Women's Conductor Institute, and was recently appointed music director of Canadian-based opera company, Re:Naissance Opera. She has also been invited to guest conduct upcoming productions of Falstaff and Don Giovanni for the Detroit-based opera company, OperaMODO. As a professional singer, she has appeared with Yale Choral Artists, sounding light, Yale Schola Cantorum, and Audivi. Originally from San Francisco, California, Abela sang as a member of the San Francisco Girls Chorus for many years.

Stacey Gibbs, Guest Conductor

Stacey V. Gibbs has many arrangements of spirituals in print. Highly acclaimed for his expertise in bringing new vitality and excitement to these beloved pieces, they have reached a wide range of choirs both internationally and in the U.S. where they have been featured in numerous festivals, celebrations, and competitions as well as at ACDA regional and National Conferences. Stacey resides in Detroit, Michigan.

Brandon Johnson, EMU Choir

Brandon Johnson, DMA is the Director of Choral Activities at Eastern Michigan University and the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Detroit Performing Artists. He has conducted professional musicians across the United States while maintaining his extensive work with students of all ages. He has performed in venues across the country including Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center, and will return to stage of renowned Carnegie Hall in 2018. Choirs under his direction have been invited to perform, and he has been selected to present for American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and the National Association for Music Education (NAFME) conferences. As a conducting pedagogue his students have been invited to participate in the American Choral Directors Association National Conducting Competition. Respected by his colleagues at Houghton College, he was humbled to accept the Excellence in Teaching Award, and was the recipient of the first fully endowed chair of the college, the Horne-Blanchard. In service to the profession, Johnson has served the American Choral Directors Association in many capacities, including College and University Representative, Male Choir Representative, Youth and Student Activities Representative, and State President. He works tirelessly as a guest conductor, lecturer and clinician for singers of all ages and is honored have been selected to conduct the upcoming 2018 Michigan State Mixed Honors Choir.

Liza Calisesi Maidens, EMU Women's Choir and EMU Express

Liza Calisesi Maidens is on the choral faculty at Eastern Michigan University, where she is the director of the Women's Choir and EMU Express. In addition to her work at EMU School of Music & Dance, Liza is the Director of Music/Organist at St. John's Episcopal in Plymouth, MI, and the Assistant Director of the Detroit Concert Choir. She also sings professionally in *Sounding Light* under the direction of Tom Trenney and is on the roster for the Philadelphia Symphonic Choir. A native of Iowa, she holds a Master's degree in sacred music/choral conducting from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey and a Bachelor's degree in music performance from Central College in Pella, Iowa. While in Princeton, Liza was a Section Leader in the Westminster Symphonic Choir, which performed regularly with the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and other world-renowned orchestras in premier concert halls. Liza was the graduate assistance to Joe Miller in and has worked with other great musical leaders such as Amanda Quist, Andrew Megill, Joseph Flummerfelt, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and Sir. Simon Rattle. Liza is on the board of ACDA-MI, and is a member of the AGO, Ann Arbor Chapter.

Michael Mitchell, Oakland Chorale

Michael A. Mitchell is the Doris and Paul Travis Professor of Music at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan where he serves as Director of Choral Activities. While conducting the Oakland Chorale, the University Chorus, and the Symphony Chorus, Mitchell supervises the graduate program in choral conducting and teaches choral literature and conducting, as well as a popular summer course on the history of Rock music. Since 2005, Dr. Mitchell has been associated with the Academic Choir Ivan Goran Kovacic in Zagreb, Croatia as a regular guest conductor. He has lectured at Zagreb University, and was the first American to lecture at the Slovak University of Music and Art in Bratislava, Slovakia. For nine concert seasons he served as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Detroit based Cantata Academy Chorale, leading that group on three acclaimed European concert tours and multiple performances with the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings. He has led the Oakland Chorale on state, regional, and national concert tours, including to Texas and New York, with performances at Trinity Church Wall Street and The Riverside Church. In Summer 2017, Dr. Mitchell led the Chorale on its first European concert tour, with sold out performances in Vienna, Venice, Ljubljana, Bled, and Zagreb. Because of his reputation as a dynamic, energetic conductor and teacher, Dr. Mitchell has conducted honor choirs and led choral festivals across the US, and has been invited to perform over 200 guest clinics with individual choirs over the course of his career. Dr. Mitchell studied conducting, music education, and voice at the University of Texas at Austin and received his doctorate in conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory, where he served as assistant to the legendary conductor Eph Ehly for three years. His other teachers include Andre Thomas, Jerry McCoy, Patrick Gardner, Mary Breden, Morris Beachy, and John Silantien. As a doctoral student he was the winner of the UMKC Chancellor's Award for Academic Merit and was a finalist in the American Choral Directors Association national conducting competition. Dr. Mitchell is a member of The American Choral Directors Association and currently serves that organization as President for the state of Michigan. He is also a member of the American Music Center, The College Music Society, The Michigan School Vocal Music Association, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Shara Nova, My Brightest Diamond, Guest Artist

Not many people can front a rock band, sing Górecki's Third Symphony, lead a marching band processional down the streets of the Sundance film festival and perform in a baroque opera of their own composing all in a month's time. But Shara Nova can. Her multifaceted career as My Brightest Diamond, which began with an acclaimed independent rock record, has reflected her journey into the world of performing arts. This Is My Hand, her fourth album, marks a confident return to rock music, one informed by her mastery of composition and a new exploration into the electronic. Born in diamond rich Arkansas and then raised all around the country, Nova came from a musical family of traveling evangelists. She went on to study operatic voice and then classical composition after a move to New York City. Shara began issuing recordings as My Brightest Diamond in 2006, following a protean period in the band AwRY, and joining Sufjan Stevens' Illinoisemakers live ensemble. Asthmatic Kitty Records released her debut album, Bring Me The Workhorse in 2006, A Thousand Sharks' Teeth in 2008, and 2011's All Things Will Unwind, which featured songs written for the chamber ensemble yMusic. In between MBD, well known fans became collaborators, and collaborative projects amassed. Highlights include singing in Laurie Anderson's 2008 show "Homeland," delivering guest vocals on The Decemberists' 2009 Hazards of Love album and subsequently joining them on tour, performing in Bryce and Aaron Dessner's multimedia presentation "The Long Count," singing and recording for Pulitzer Prize winning composer David Lang and singing in Sarah Kirkland Snider's "Penelope" and "Unremembered." Shara has also worked with David Byrne (on his concept musical "Here Lies Love"), Fat Boy Slim, Bon Iver and The Blind Boys of Alabama. She is currently finishing her next album with producer The Twilite Tone, due for release in 2018.

Kyle Zeuch, MSU Youth Chamber Choir

Kyle Zeuch attended Capital University in Columbus, OH graduating with a Bachelor of Music Education. Kyle was co-founder and director of the Capital Chordsmen, an ensemble that revived the Men's Glee Club tradition at the university. Kyle taught at Rivera high school in the border town of Brownsville, TX, grew the choral program, and had success in UIL and All-State activities. Zeuch received the Texas Choral Directors Association Distinguished Young Director Award in the summer of 2010. Kyle received his Masters in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University, studying with David Rayl, Jonathan Reed, and Sandra Snow. Zeuch is an active judge for MSVMA as well as a clinician and presenter in various states including Michigan, Ohio, and Texas. Kyle is very excited to begin serving as the Director of Children and Youth Choirs for the MSU Community Music School in the Fall of 2013.

Local Not-for Profit Organizations Represented:

Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency: Elena Brennan: Program Associate

Youth Arts Alliance: Heather Martin: Director

PACJ: Liz Hebron

Dedicated to Make a Change: Educate Youth: Gail Wolkoff

Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice: Chuck Warpehoski

Washtenaw Faces Race: Washtenaw Congregational Sanctuary; Friends of Restorative Justice: Lucia Heinold



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**2017-18 EMU CHOIR
INVITED PERFORMANCES**
2017 MI ACDA FALL CONFERENCE
ANDREA BOCELLI AND THE DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
2018 MICHIGAN MUSIC CONFERENCE
2018 CENTRAL/NORTH CENTRAL ACDA CONFERENCE
NATIONAL HONOR CHOIR, CARNEGIE HALL

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS
BACHELOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION - VOCAL & INSTRUMENTAL
BACHELOR OF MUSIC THERAPY
BACHELOR OF MUSIC PERFORMANCE
BACHELOR OF ARTS/SCIENCE IN MUSIC
BACHELOR OF ARTS/SCIENCE IN DANCE
MUSIC/DANCE MINOR

POST-BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS
MUSIC EDUCATION TEACHER CERTIFICATION
MUSIC THERAPY EQUIVALENCY CERTIFICATE

GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS
MASTER OF MUSIC IN MUSIC EDUCATION
MASTER OF MUSIC IN PERFORMANCE
MASTER OF MUSIC IN PIANO PEDAGOGY
MASTER OF MUSIC IN COMPOSITION

UPCOMING 2017-18 AUDITION DATES
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2017 (MUSIC)
FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018 (MUSIC)
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2018 (MUSIC & DANCE)
FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018 (MUSIC & DANCE)



Nearby Dining Options:

Tower Inn Cafe

Pizza, salad, burgers
701 W Cross St.

Frazzlez

American, burgers
505 S Huron St.

Los Amigos

Mexican
2851 E Michigan Ave.

Sidetrack Bar and Grill

Burgers, American
56 E Cross St.

Jimmy John's

537 W Cross St.

Red Rock Downtown Barbecue

Barbecue
207 W Michigan Ave.

Pita Pita

Mediterranean
2649 Washtenaw Ave.

To participate in our Dine to Donate, please present the insert included here at one of the local restaurants helping to sponsor our event. Thank you for your patronage of our hometown eats!

