



come away  
TO THE  
skies

SACS

**SEDONA ACADEMY OF CHAMBER SINGERS**

RYAN HOLDER, FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2019 | 2:00 PM**

**THE CHURCH OF THE RED ROCKS**

54 BOWSTRING DRIVE  
SEDONA, AZ 86336



*come away* TO THE *skies*

SEDONA ACADEMY OF CHAMBER SINGERS

Ryan Holder, *Founding Artistic Director*

***Early American***

Now Shall My Inward Joys Arise

William Billings

Weeping Mary

arr. Brad Holmes

Wayfaring Stranger

arr. Michael Engelhardt

***Music of Stephen Foster***

Camptown Races

Stephen Foster

Hard Times Come Again No More

Stephen Foster, arr. Craig Hella Johnson

O Susanna

Stephen Foster, arr. Jonathan Crutchfield

***American Gospel & Spirituals***

Don't Be Weary, Traveler

Karen Seals

Hold On

arr. Clifton J. Noble

Give Me Jesus

arr. L. L. Fleming

Katie Sheridan, *conductor*

Music Down in My Soul

arr. Moses Hogan

Katie Sheridan, *conductor*

INTERMISSION

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**Come Away to the Skies: A High Lonesome Bluegrass Mass**

Wes Ramsay & Tim Sharp

*Introit*

*Kyrie Eleison*

*Gloria*

*Credo*

*Sanctus*

*Agnus Dei*

Shenandoah

arr. James Erb

**River Medley: Show Me the Way**

Wes Ramsay & Tim Sharp

Shall We Gather at the River

Down to the River

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

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**INSTRUMENTALISTS**

Amos Cox, *mandolin*

Harout Hagopian, *drums*

Tristan Lauzon, *bass*

Taylor Morris, *fiddle*

Tim Sharp, *banjo*

Adam Stich, *guitar*

Michelle Wachter, *piano*

# ABOUT US

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## SEDONA ACADEMY OF CHAMBER SINGERS

The Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers was created in 2010 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Church of the Red Rocks in Sedona, Arizona and the 25th anniversary of Reverend Dr. George A. Ault. Now starting its tenth year, the ensemble gives undergraduate and graduate voice and choral students from around the Southwest an opportunity to experience singing in a semi-professional choir. The choir has performed throughout the state, most notably serving as a back-up choir for multi-platinum recording artist Josh Groban. In 2016, the ensemble was featured prominently in celebrations throughout Northern Arizona to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the National Parks Service.

As the choir-in-residence at The Church of the Red Rocks, "The Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers and The Church of the Red Rocks have entered into a partnership with the express purpose of promoting the art of music, with the knowledge that doing so will enrich the lives of young people and adults alike and foster an atmosphere of intellectual and artistic curiosity among both patrons and members" according to Dr. Ryan Holder, Professor of Choral Studies at Northern Arizona University and Founding Artistic Director of the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers.

In June 2019, Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers was excited to welcome back alumni of the ensemble to celebrate and perform a reunion concert and recording of special guest composer Michael Hoppé's choral works. The album, *Safe To Port*, will be available November 2019!

### SOPRANO

Mattison Avery  
Sarah Irvin  
Jill Jones  
Samantha Jorgensen  
Sydney Murrell  
Meg Neil  
Talia Ruiz  
MacKenzie Tanquary

### ALTO

Stephanie Baker  
Abigail Dotts  
Elizabeth Good  
Amanda Johnson  
Mary Kray  
Itzel Lucero  
Katie Sheridan  
Brooke Wochner

### TENOR

Gabe Hernandez  
Geoffrey Lambeth  
Sam McGehee  
Dezzy O'Connell  
Luke Poupore  
Benjamin Saunders  
Zach Stoddard  
Theodore Thomas

### BASS

Kazin Cole  
Sean Gallegos  
Sebastian Garcia-Valle  
Nick Hamlyn  
Albert Lee  
Thommy Long  
Sague Molina  
Steven Schaefer

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**RYAN HOLDER**  
**FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

Ryan W. Holder is currently in his fourteenth year as the Associate Director of Choral Studies at Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff, AZ), where he directs the Women's Chorale, Northern Voices and High Altitude vocal jazz ensembles, teaches undergraduate and graduate conducting and choral methods, supervises choral student teachers, serves as the adviser for the NAU student chapter of the American Choral Directors Association and the three contemporary a cappella groups. In addition, he is the coordinator of the annual Jazz/Madrigal festival, which brings in over 85 high schools and 145 choirs every year.

Dr. Holder has given lectures and presentations at local, state, and regional ACDA and NAFME conventions, including a lecture on "Making the Transition from Classical to Vocal Jazz". His vocal jazz ensembles have also been invited to perform throughout the Southwest, including performances at state and regional ACDA conferences, and was one of only three vocal jazz ensembles selected to perform at the 2012 Jazz Educators Network Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

Ryan recently finished serving as the Arizona State ACDA President as well as the ACDA National Committee on Educational Technology. He serves as the director of music at The Church of the Red Rocks in Sedona, Arizona where he is the founding artistic director of the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers.

Dr. Holder received his DMA degree from the University of Miami in addition to bachelors and masters degrees from Southern Oregon University and University of Northern Colorado, respectively.



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**MICHELLE WICHTER, piano**

Michelle Wachter, DMA, serves as Lecturer of Class Piano at Northern Arizona University, where she teaches group piano and piano pedagogy, coordinates the piano area of the NAU Community Music and Dance Academy, and supervises graduate assistants in group piano. Dedicated to excellence in research and pedagogy, Wachter has presented at the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, the Group Piano/Piano Pedagogy Forum, the Music Teachers National Association National Conference, the College Music Society Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, the South Carolina Music Educators Association Conference, and many local conferences. Her articles have appeared in *Clavier Companion* and the *MTNA e-Journal*. She also serves on the editorial board of *Piano Pedagogy Forum* and is editor of the 2013, 2015, and 2017 Proceedings of the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy.

As an educator, Wachter has extensive experience teaching piano to students of all ages and levels in both group and private lessons, and she is a frequent adjudicator at festivals and competitions. A longtime member of the Music Teachers National Association, Wachter currently serves as president of the Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association. An active solo performer, she is also in demand as a collaborative pianist.

Wachter received her DMA in piano pedagogy from the University of South Carolina, where she studied piano with Dr. Joseph Rackers and piano pedagogy with Dr. Scott Price. She holds a master's degree in piano performance from the University of South Carolina, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in both music and English from Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, where her professors included Rebecca Wilt and Ya-Ting Chang.

# MEET THE INSTRUMENTALISTS

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**TIM SHARP**, *Composer & banjo*

(BM, MCM, DMA) is Executive Director of the American Choral Directors Association, the national professional association for choral conductors, educators, scholars, students, and choral music industry representatives in the United States. He represents choral activity in the USA to the International Federation for Choral Music and serves as Vice-President and Artistic Director for the 2020 World Symposium on Choral Music in Auckland, New Zealand.

Sharp, himself an active choral conductor, researcher, and writer, has varied his career with executive positions in higher education, recording, and publishing. Prior to his leadership of ACDA, Sharp was Dean of Fine Arts at Rhodes College, and earlier, Director of Choral Activities at Belmont University.

Tim's research and writing focuses pedagogically in conducting and score analysis, and various published essays and books betray his eclectic interests in regional music history, acoustics, creativity, innovation, and aesthetics. He has conducted university, community, church, and children's choirs, and continues to serve as choral conductor and clinician in the United States and internationally, and is in his tenth year as Artistic Director/ Conductor of the Tulsa Oratorio Chorus.

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**AMOS COX**, *mandolin*

graduated ASU Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's degree in Theory, studying Classical Guitar with Professor Frank Koonce. He is an accomplished performer on Guitar, Mandolin, Voice, Piano and Bass. His experience includes playing in the following bands: Busted Hearts (Bluegrass), The Breadwinners (Bluegrass), Hurt County (Bluegrass/Country).



**HAROUT HAGOPIAN**, *drums*

grew up in a house filled with music. His fondest early memories are listening to his father play Armenian folk songs and jazz standards on the piano. He started playing the drums when he was thirteen and hasn't stopped since. Though his main focus now is jazz music he plays in a wide variety of genre's and settings.



**TRISTAN LAUZON**, *bass*

is a professionally trained bassist currently studying at Arizona State University. While specializing in jazz, he has had opportunities to perform and create music in many different contexts and genres, ranging from jazz groups, to bluegrass bands, to orchestras, and even different styles of modern popular music.



**TAYLOR MORRIS**, *fiddle*

Hailed by a 2nd grade classroom as "wreely nice and kind" and "the coolest man on erth," Taylor Morris enjoys blurring the lines between violin and fiddle. Eagerly collaborating across musical genres, he has performed in 48 states and 13 countries as an alumnus of the Canadian world-music troupe Barrage, with duo partner Tricia Park, with chamber-folk string sextet The Sound Accord, or as a soloist. Offstage, Taylor obtained a master's in education from Harvard University and teaches nationally as a guest educator and clinician. He co-founded/co-directs the Gilbert Town Fiddlers (an extracurricular high school fiddle group), serves as a Guest Lecturer at Arizona State University, and runs a summer camp for young musicians in called StringPlay. For more information on Taylor, please visit: [www.taylormorrismusic.com](http://www.taylormorrismusic.com).



**ADAM STICH**, *guitar*

(BA, MM, DMA) is the Director of Choirs and chair of the Department of Music at Scottsdale Community College. Prior to his appointment at Scottsdale Community College he taught at Eastern Illinois University and in the public school system of South Carolina. As a founding member of Columbia, SC based bluegrass band Salt Creek, Adam performed across the southeast. In 2017 he played the Carnegie Hall premier of A High Lonesome Mass with Tim Sharp conducting.

# MEET THE SINGERS



**MATTISON AVERY**

s a senior Vocal Performance major at Northern Arizona University. She is a graduate of the Las Vegas Academy of the Arts, where she participated in the choral program. Matti has participated in several choirs at NAU, including Women's Chorale under the direction of Ryan Holder, Northern Voices and High Altitude under the direction of Ryan Holder, and Shrine of the Ages under the direction of Edith Copley. Along with being in choir, Matti was a part of the NAU lyric theater productions of Pirates of Penzance and scenes from Peter Grimes. She is currently studying voice with Deborah Raymond and NAU, and recently finished her Junior Recital, where she sang "Simple Song" from Leonard Bernstein's Mass, the aria "Quel guardo il cavaliere" from Gaetano Donizetti's Don Pasquale, and the part of Lakme in the "Lakme Flower Duet" by Leò Delibes. Matti Avery is looking forward to her second year in the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers!



**STEPHANIE (STEVIE) BAKER**

is a rising senior this year at NAU pursuing a degree in Choral Music Education. Stevie has been a part of many ensembles during her time in college, including Shrine of the Ages, Northern Voices, Women's Chorale, and Chamber. This upcoming school year she will be beginning her second year as Music Director for NAU's all-treble a cappella group, the Axecidentals. Stevie is so thrilled to be singing once again with Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers!



**KAZIN COLE**

is currently a junior studying Choral Music Education at Northern Arizona University. He transferred to NAU from Mesa Community College where he also studied Music. Prior to starting his undergraduate degree, he attended Red Mountain High School in Mesa, Arizona. He is extremely grateful for the opportunity to make music with The Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers.



**ABIGAIL DOTTS**

s a sophomore at Northern Arizona University pursuing degrees in Music and Psychology. Ms. Dotts is from Ahwatukee in Phoenix, and while at Desert Vista High School she participated in the Concert Choir, the Chamber ensemble, the Regional Choir and the All-State Jazz Choir. This past year at NAU, Ms. Dotts was involved in many of the University's choirs, including the Women's Chorale and the Northern Voices Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Ryan Holder. Abigail feels honored to be singing with the talented performers of the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers this summer.



**SEAN GALLEGOS**

is an incoming sophomore at nau's school of music. Currently he is studying under the magnificent Dr. Cloud and loves every minute of it. During this summer, he got the wonderful opportunity to work at nau's curry summer music camp as a counselor and mentor many young and talented musicians. Right now he is majoring in vocal performance and Hope'sto still work with young aspiring musicians in the future.



**SEBASTIAN GARCIA-VALLE**

is a Junior at Northern Arizona University pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Music Education with a Choral Emphasis. Sebastian has been musically involved and singing in choirs since his freshman year of high school. He has been involved in several ensembles during his time at NAU which include the Northern Voices Vocal Jazz ensemble under the direction of Dr. Ryan Holder, the Shrine of the Ages choir under the direction of Dr. Edith Copley, and the all male a cappella group Highlanders, which he is the president of. This will be Sebastian's second year participating in the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers and he is excited to be a part of a choir with such talented singers and musicians!



**ELIZABETH GOOD**

is a sophomore at Northern Arizona University pursuing a degree in Secondary Choral Education. Originally from Phoenix, she graduated from Scottsdale Preparatory Academy where she performed in theater and multiple choirs, as well as All-Region and All-State Choir. This past year at NAU, she participated in Women's Chorale and Northern Voices vocal jazz, both under the direction of Ryan Holder, and served as the accompanist of University Singers. This is Elizabeth's first year singing with SACS and she is very grateful and excited for the opportunity!



**NICK HAMLYN**

is a senior at NAU studying business marketing with a minor in music. A four-year all-state singer from Campo Verde High School, I have been musically involved since I could remember and I've been singing in choirs since middle school. I recently got back from an exchange semester in Australia and I'm excited to see what this year brings. I will also be a member in the shrine of the ages choir this year. I'm extremely grateful for this opportunity and I can't wait to share some beautiful music with some beautiful people!

# MEET THE SINGERS (CONTINUED)

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## GABRIEL HERNANDEZ

is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at Northern Arizona University. While at NAU Gabriel has had the joy of participating in the Lyric opera in productions such as *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Trouble in Tahiti*, and *Kiss me Kate*. In addition to these roles, Gabriel has participated in nearly every NAU choral ensemble; of his choral experience at NAU, he is most proud of his work as Shrine President in the 2017-18 Shrine of the Ages choir and his accomplishments with his a cappella group, the Pinetones. Gabriel has participated in the Sedona Academy of Chamber singers for four years now and has loved every second of music making! Eventually, Gabriel would like to start operating LGBTQ youth choirs wherever LGBTQ people experience marginalization. He would like to thank Dr. Holder and the Friends of Music for giving him and his peers such an enriching musical experience.



## SARAH IRVIN

will begin her graduate studies at Northern Arizona University in pursuit of a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting this fall and will also serve as the Assistant Director of the Master Chorale of Flagstaff. Originally from Carson City, Nevada, Sarah received her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2016. Since graduating, she has been teaching elementary music and middle school choir in Reno, as well as directing other youth choirs with Sierra Mountain Music Camp and Sierra Nevada Children's Choir. Sarah has performed roles with Nevada Chamber Opera in productions such as *The Medium*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Suor Angelica*, and *Iolanthe*. She has been a featured soloist with the Nevada Chamber Singers, University Symphonic Choir, Reno Baroque Ensemble, Nevada Concert Winds, Reno Chamber Orchestra, Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Tocatta Tahoe Symphony Orchestra.



## AMANDA JOHNSON

is a Choral Education major at Northern Arizona University, and is returning as a Junior this year. She is a graduate of Corona del School High School in Tempe, Arizona. This past year, Ms. Johnson participated in several choral ensembles at NAU. These include the Shrine of the Ages choir, Elevation A Cappella, and both the vocal jazz group High Altitude and Women's Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Ryan Holder. Along with this, she currently serves as an intern at the Church of the Red Rocks in Sedona. Amanda is looking forward to her second year with the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers, and is very excited to sing with them again this summer!



## JILL JONES

is a fifth-year vocal performance major at NAU. Jill was born and raised in Arizona. She graduated from Campo Verde High School in 2015 with many different musical accolades. She was part of the choir, orchestra, and theatre programs all four years. Since high school, Jill has been a part of the NAU Vocal Jazz group; the all-female A Cappella group, the NAU Axcidentals; the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers; and NAU's Lyric Opera Theatre. In past years, Jill was fortunate enough to play the role of Papagena in the nationally-awarded NAU Production of *Die Zauberflöte*. Along with voice, Jill has played cello for over 12 years. She has taught at Stringplay, a creative camp for string players ages 12-18.



## SAMANTHA JORGENSEN

is beginning her junior year as a choral music education student at NAU. She is a graduate of Catalina Foothills High School in Tucson, Arizona where she was an active member in the choral and steel drum programs. She has performed with the NAU Women's Chorale under the direction of Dr. Ryan holder, the Harold M. Harter Memorial Handbell choir, the NAU Chamber singers, and the NAU Shrine of the Ages choir under the direction of Dr. Edith Copley. Ms. Jorgensen has also been involved in numerous ensembles including the 2017 Arizona All-State choir and the 2016 Stangeland Family Youth Choral Academy at the Oregon Bach Festival under the direction of Dr. Anton Armstrong. Samantha is honored to return to sing with the Sedona Academy of Choral Singers.



## MARY KRAY

is a Mezzo Soprano from in Las Vegas, Nevada currently pursuing a vocal performance degree at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. She has been involved in the performance various master works such as Brahms's *Schicksalsleid*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, and Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*. She has performed the roles of Third Lady in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Kate in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*, and Margaret in Guettel's *The Light in the Piazza*. Mary has received the Metropolitan Opera Encouragement Award in 2018, and the Edgar Stone Scholarship/Award in 2019. Mary recently completed a young artist program for opera this summer in Bavaria, Germany with the MusikTheater Bavaria program. She looks forward to furthering her education and career in classical vocal performance.



## GEOFF LAMBETH

is entering his fifth year at Northern Arizona University, where he plans to graduate with a Journalism degree in May 2020. Growing up on the coast in Southern California, Geoff developed a deep passion for theater, music and art and began working in the local music community. In the year before moving to Flagstaff, Arizona for school, Geoff worked as producer and creative director for Kids Helping Kids non-profit benefit gala featuring Ingrid Michaelson and JOHNNYSWIM. Geoff is working in Flagstaff as a portrait, couples and marketing photographer while he completes his degree. After graduation, Geoff plans to work as a multimedia journalist and documentarian.



## ALBERT LEE

is a second-year graduate student at Northern Arizona University, pursuing a master's degree in choral conducting. He will direct NAU's jazz ensemble, Northern Voices, 2019-2020. Albert is an NAU alumni, having received his Bachelor Degrees in choral music education and piano performance in 2012. After his graduation, he moved down to Phoenix where he directed the choir program of Akimel A-al Middle School in Ahwatukee for six years. Within his first year of teaching, Albert was recognized by the ACE (American Choral Educators) by being honored with the "New Music Educator of the Year" Award. As the Akimel A-al choir director his accomplishments include establishing their "Honors Choir" and taking the choir to New York for a festival performance. He served the Phoenix Boys Choir as one of the Neighborhood Training/Cadet Choir directors for three years and traveling as a chaperone for five international tours.



**THOMMY LONG**

is going into his junior year as a vocal performance student at Northern Arizona University. He graduated from Red Mountain High School in Mesa, Arizona where he was fully involved in choir and musical theatre. Tommy has loved his first year at NAU, participating in Men's choral, Chamber choir, and the NAU Highlanders all-male a cappella group. He would like to thank Dr. Holder for giving him this opportunity to join the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers.



**ITZEL LUCERO**

is a senior at Northern Arizona University pursuing a bachelor's degree in Music Education. She is a graduate of Dobson High School in Mesa, Arizona. Before attending NAU, Itzel studied at Chandler Gilbert Community College for 3 years. She was a part of CGCC's College Singers, Vocal Jazz, Broadway Singers, and Orchestra. In addition to her participation in choirs and orchestra, Itzel also performed in CGCC's musical productions: Man of La Mancha, Weird Romance, and A Christmas Carol. At NAU, Itzel has been a part of University Singers, Women's Chorale, Chamber Singers, the Harter Handbell Choir, and Shrine of the Ages Choir. She has had the pleasure of working with all the NAU choral directors and studying with her private voice teacher, Deborah Raymond. She looks forward to continuing her studies at NAU and is grateful for the opportunities she has had to be a part of the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers.



**SAM MCGEHEE**

is a senior at Northern Arizona University majoring in Music with a minor in Studio Art. He is a graduate of Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix, Arizona, where he served as President of the Honor Chorale and a member of the Chapel Ensemble. At NAU he has been involved in the Shrine of the Ages choir, under the direction of Dr. Edith Copley, as well as the vocal jazz ensemble High Altitude, under the direction of Dr. Ryan Holder. Sam is also starting his second year as music director of the co-ed NAU a cappella group Elevation. He's very excited to be able to perform with the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers for the third time.



**SAGUE MOLINA**

is a senior at Northern Arizona University studying Music Education with a Choral Emphasis and is a graduate of Desert Vista High School. Molina began his music education as an instrumentalist (bassoon) and vocalist, participating in band and choir throughout his studies, including Regional/All-State ensembles. At NAU, Sague has sung with the Shrine of the Ages choir, High Altitude Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Men's Chorale, and Chamber Singers as well as singing with and music directing The Highlanders A Cappella group for three years. This fall, he will be student conducting University Singers. When not in an ensemble, Sague accompanies singers at NAU, arranges music for his a cappella group, and sings different styles of music including classical, jazz, and pop. Recently he competed in the AZ District NATS competition and placed 1st in the Upper College Men Classical division. Currently a music intern at the Church of the Red Rocks and third-year member of the SACS, Sague is excited to share this musical experience with all of you.



**SYDNEY MURRELL**

is originally from Gilbert, Arizona and graduated from Campo Verde High School. Sydney is going into her Junior year and is majoring in Choral Music Education. Throughout her time at NAU, Sydney has participated in many ensembles including the Northern Voices under the direction of Dr. Holder, the all-treble a cappella group Axecidentals, NAU Women's Chorale, also under the direction of Dr. Holder, and the NAU Shrine of the Ages choir under the direction of Dr. Copley. This past year, Sydney has had the privilege of being an intern at the Church of the Red Rocks, and is thrilled to participate with the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers!!



**MEG NEIL**

is a rising Sophomore at Northern Arizona University majoring in Environmental Studies with a minor in Music. She is a graduate of Pinnacle High School in Phoenix, Arizona, where she served as President of Choir Club her senior year and a member of Prestige, All State, and All State Jazz her last three years there. At NAU she has been involved in the Women's Chorale and Northern Voices Jazz Ensemble, both under the direction of Dr. Holder, as well as the co-ed a cappella group Elevation. She's honored to perform with the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers for the first time.



**DEZZY O'CONNELL**

is a rising Junior at Northern Arizona University studying Vocal Performance. He grew up in Mesa, Arizona and graduated from Red Mountain High School where he participated in several choirs and productions. While at NAU, Dezzy has participated in ensembles such as Shrine of the Ages, Men's Chorale, University Singers, Northern Voices Vocal Jazz, High Altitude Vocal Jazz, the all-male a cappella group Highlanders, and Chamber Choir. He also participated in productions including The Magic Flute, Scenes from Benjamin Britten, and Light in the Piazza as Fabrizio Naccarelli. He is excited to announce that he is the Assistant Coordinator for the NAU tradition, Holiday Dinner, and that he will be starting as an intern at the Church of the Red Rocks next week. With his love and passion for performing, Dezzy can't wait to be a part of the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers and sing for the lovely people of Sedona.



**LUKE POUPORE**

is beginning his senior year at Northern Arizona University working towards a Bachelor of the Arts degree in Music with two minors in Japanese and Business. Luke is a graduate of Scottsdale Preparatory Academy where he participated in the concert and jazz choirs for 4 years. This past year, Mr. Poupore participated in many choral ensembles at NAU, including the NAU Men's Chorale, Northern Voices vocal jazz ensemble, and the NAU Chamber Singers. Mr. Poupore has also been apart ensembles such the Phoenix Boys Choir and the NAU Highlanders a cappella group. Going into his final year of college, Luke is excited to be a member in the Shrine of the Ages Choir. Luke is honored to join the Sedona Academy of Choral Singers for the first time.

# MEET THE SINGERS (CONTINUED)

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## TALIA RUIZ

is a junior Vocal Performance major at Northern Arizona University. This is her second year in the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers as well as her second year in Shrine of the Ages. She has participated in multiple operas at NAU, and is the Performance Director of the all-treble a cappella group The NAU Axcenticals. She is very excited to perform at the beautiful church of the red rocks again and thanks her family, friends, and teachers for their support.



## BENJAMIN SAUNDERS

is entering his second year of graduate studies at Northern Arizona University pursuing a Master of Music in choral conducting. He graduated summa cum laude from Weber State University with a bachelor's of music education and a Spanish minor. While at Weber State, Ben was awarded Outstanding Graduate in Music and the Dr. Craig Jessop Scholarship in Choral Studies. He served as the Assistant Director of the Weber State University Concert Choir and as the President of the WSU Chamber Choir for their tour to Western Europe. Ben founded, organized, and oversaw the first Weber State University High School Chamber Choir Festival, bringing in chamber choirs from around the state to participate in the festival. This year he is the new artistic director of the Master Chorale of Flagstaff and the Arizona Mountain Chorale, and will continue to serve as the director of the NAU Men's Chorale.



## STEVEN SCHAEFER

is a second-year graduate student at Northern Arizona University pursuing a Masters of Music in Choral Conducting. Steven serves as the Bell-Master for the Harold M. Harter Memorial Handbell Choir and the accompanist for the Shrine of the Ages Choir. Steven earned his bachelor's degree in Piano Performance with a minor in Spanish from Northern Arizona University in 2013. While at NAU Steven won the Concerto Competition performing Dmitri Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 2 with the NAU Orchestra. The past 5 years he taught music to grade 1-8, most recently at BASIS Flagstaff. Currently serving as Director of Choirs for the Flagstaff Youth Chorale, Steven is excited for his third season with the organization collaborating with the Master Chorale of Flagstaff and the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra. Steven serves as the Director of Music at the First Congregational Church of Flagstaff directing choir and accompanying. He is also the Principal Organist at Peace Lutheran Church.



## KATIE SHERIDAN

is a second-year graduate student at Northern Arizona University pursuing her master's degree in choral conducting. She currently conducts NAU's University Singers and serves as the choir director at Living Christ Lutheran Church in Flagstaff. Katie graduated summa cum laude from Millikin University where she earned her bachelor's degree in vocal music education. She sang in the Millikin University Choir for 3 years. After graduating, Katie taught choir for 5 years in Oregon, IL. In her tenure she taught grades 5-12 choir, conducted an extra-curricular madrigal group, and directed the spring musical in 2018. Katie also served as the northwest regional vocal audition chair for ILMEA (Illinois Music Education Association). In October 2017, Katie was recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education's "Those Who Excel" Program.



## ZACHARY STODDARD

is originally from Phoenix, Arizona and is now a Senior at Northern Arizona University pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree. Zachary grew up singing in the Phoenix Boys Choir, high school ensembles, Arizona All State Honor Choirs, and spending his summers as a member of the Youth Choral Academy at The Oregon Bach Festival. At NAU, Zachary sings in the Shrine of the Ages Choir, High Altitude Jazz ensemble, and Elevation a cappella. He serves as the President for both Elevation and The Shrine of the Ages Choir. He currently holds an internship at The Museum of Northern Arizona for partial completion of his minor in Arts and Cultural Management. Zachary will be set to graduate in spring 2020 and hopes pursue music in any and all capacities for his career.



## MACKENZIE TANQUARY

will be a senior choral music education major, and is a graduate of Corona del Sol high school in Tempe, Arizona. She studied voice for 2 years under Andrea Pitman-Will and continued her studies under Prof. Christine Graham. She also sang in the Phoenix Girls Chorus for five years, where she gained her love for choral music by traveling and performing around the United States and Europe during summer vacations. She has participated in numerous ensembles during her time at NAU, including Women's Chorale, Shrine of the Ages, High Altitude vocal jazz group, and the NAU chamber singers. She is also an intern at the Church of the Red Rocks in Sedona, where she sings every Sunday. She currently serves as the president of the NAU Axcenticals, the premiere all treble a cappella group on campus.



## THEODORE THOMAS

is a Choral Education Major at Northern Arizona University and will be graduating during the 2019/2020 school year. Throughout his time at NAU he has enjoyed taking part in a variety of ensembles including Carolers, University Singers, Men's Choral, The NAU Chamber Singers, Shrine of the Ages Choir, Opera Choruses, The Harter M. Memorial Handbell Choir, Northern Voices, The NAU Highlanders, Vessel A Cappella, and The Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers. During his final year at NAU, Theo will be student conducting University Singers under the direction of Katie Sheridan. He is also extremely excited for the opportunity to travel with Shrine of the Ages choir to South Korea and Honk Kong during their international tour this coming year.



## BROOKE WOCHNER

is a junior at Northern Arizona University pursuing a degree in Music Education with a minor in Psychology. She is a graduate from Corona del Sol High School in Tempe, Arizona, where she participated in the concert and chamber choirs, while also earning a spot in the Regional and All State choirs. In her past two years at NAU, Brooke has participated in various choral ensembles. She is currently in the all treble a cappella group the Axcenticals, Northern Voices, under the direction of Dr. Ryan Holder, and Shrine of the Ages, under the direction of Dr. Edith Copley. Brooke is also currently studying private voice with Dr. Deborah Raymond. She is very excited to perform again with the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers!

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## The Church of the Red Rocks

Reverend Dr. Cindy Parker, Senior Pastor  
Reverend Dr. George Ault, Pastor Emeritus  
Ginger Willetts, Administrative Assistant  
Cate Mandigo-Wyckoff, Information Secretary  
Marcia Bickford, Receptionist  
Penny Beers, Treasurer  
Suzanne Moore, Organist  
John Moore, Chair, Music @ Red Rocks Committee  
Betty Morgan, Choir President  
Members of the Chancel and Handbell Choirs

## Northern Arizona University

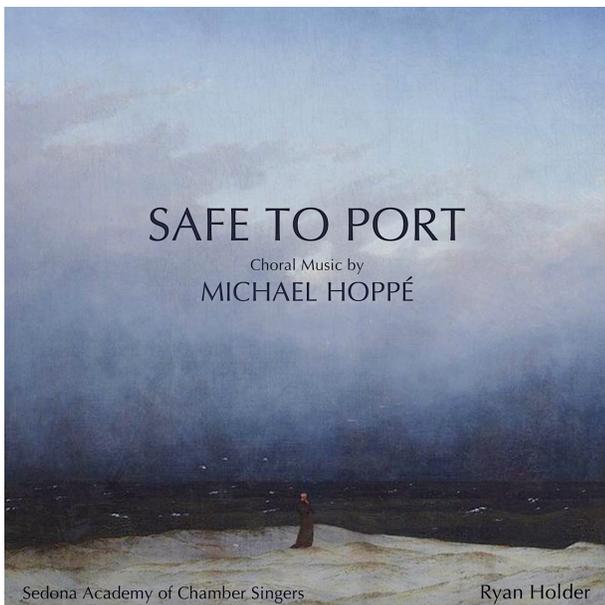
Dr. Todd Sullivan, Director, School of Music  
Dr. Edith Copley, Director, Choral Studies Program  
Ruth Solin, Administrative Associate, Choral Studies  
Choral Graduate Students: Sarah Irvin, Albert Lee, Benjamin Saunders,  
Steven Schaefer, Katie Sheridan

## Personnel:

Michelle Wichter, Rehearsal Accompanist  
Lies'l Hill, Program Design & Layout  
Adam Stich, Scottsdale Community College

Finally, a very special thanks to John and Suzanne Moore for their continued generous support of the Sedona Academy of Chamber Singers.

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