

*Serve the Lord with gladness!  
Come before His presence with singing.*

PSALM 100:2

*These words are inscribed above the Princeton University Chapel arch  
under which all Westminster students pass in the Commencement procession.*



# Rider University Statement of Community Values

In our endeavor to make Rider University a just community, we commit ourselves, as caring individuals, to the following principles:

- ☞ that our rigorous intellectual life nourishes our minds and spirits;
- ☞ that no person roams these halls as a stranger;
- ☞ that integrity of word and deed forms the foundation of all relationships;
- ☞ that we recognize that real leadership is derived from service to others;
- ☞ that we celebrate our differences for they are our strength;
- ☞ that we are proud of this special place, entrusted to us by past generations, nurtured by us for future ones;
- ☞ that we share not one Truth, but respect our common pursuit for understanding;
- ☞ and through the time we spend here, we are forever joined to each other and to Rider University.

*Adopted on University Day, April 12, 2001*



*Rider University wishes to express appreciation to  
President Christopher L. Eisgruber and Princeton University  
for the use of the Chapel for this ceremony.*

# Rider University Board of Trustees

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## Westminster Choir College Student Government Association Executive Board

President: ARI CARRILLO

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## Senior Class Officers

President: CORINNE BERNTSEN

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# Westminster Choir College Alumni Council

Acting President/Secretary: THOMAS E. FARACCO '71, '79

Past President: JAMES BUSBY '85, '92

MADELINE MASSY AMOS '71

ANTHONY C. BARON '11

ELIZABETH M. BEWIE '02

LAURIE EISENBROWN BISCHOF '90

ANTHONY CELENTANO '78, '80

JUSTIN COOK '11

PATRICIA BUCHHOLTZ GUTH '81

ROBERT IVEY '58, '59

GLENN OSBORNE '94

ANTOINE G. PALLOC '92

DR. CHRISTOPHER SAMUEL '80, '82

JONATHAN SLAWSON '09

DR. TONY THORNTON '89

DR. JODY DOKTOR VELLOSO '97

KRISTINE HURST WAJSZCZUK '91, '94



# Program

PLEASE HOLD ALL APPLAUSE UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF COMMENCEMENT

BRASS: *Fanfare pour précéder La Péri*

Paul Dukas  
(1865 – 1935)

Solid Brass  
Joe Miller, *conductor*

ORGAN: *Toccata in D Minor, BWV 538*

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685 – 1750)

Michael P. Ryan '18, '20, *organ*

HANDBELLS: *Contemplation on Ubi Caritas*

Catherine McMichael  
(b. 1954)

Westminster Concert Bell Choir  
Kathleen Ebling Shaw '85, *conductor*

BRASS AND ORGAN: *Feierlicher Einzug*

Richard Strauss  
(1864 – 1949)

Solid Brass  
Eric Plutz '89, *organ*  
James Jordan, *conductor*

ORGAN: *Flourish for an Occasion*

Sir William Henry Harris  
(1883 – 1973)

Eric Plutz '89, *organ*

INTROIT: *Danny Boy*

LONDONDERRY AIR  
arr. Joseph Flummerfelt

Westminster Chapel Choir  
Tom T. Shelton, Jr., *conductor*

FANFARE: *Fanfare for the Common Man*

Aaron Copland  
(1900 – 1990)

Solid Brass  
Joe Miller, *conductor*

PROCESSION: *Processional*

Warren Martin '36, '38  
(1916 – 1982)

Eric Plutz '89, *organ*

INTRODUCTION

DonnaJean Fredeen  
*Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

INVOCATION

Kristian C. Kohler '13  
*Pastor, Faith Lutheran Church  
East Hartford, CT*

HYMN: *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* \*

ELLACOMBE  
arr. Douglas Byler '19

Amanda Quist, *conductor*

WELCOME

Gregory G. Dell'Omo  
*President of the University*

ANTHEM: *Trinity Te Deum*

Ēriks Ešenvalds  
(b. 1977)

James Jordan, *conductor*

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Donald Nally '87

ANTHEM OF THE GRADUATING CLASSES: *Forever*

Samuel Scheibe '21  
(b. 1999)

Lauren Sander '19, *conductor*

CHARGE TO THE DEGREE CANDIDATES

James Goldsworthy  
*Professor of Piano*

ANTHEM: *Anthem of Dedication*

Joe Miller, *conductor*

Martin

PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES

DonnaJean Fredeen  
Marshall Onofrio  
*Dean of the College*  
Frank Abrahams  
*Interim Associate Dean of the College*

CONFERRING OF DEGREES IN COURSE

Gregory G. Dell'Omo

*Master of Music  
Master of Music Education  
Master of Voice Pedagogy*

*Bachelor of Music  
Bachelor of Arts in Music*

*\*All who are willing and able are invited to stand and join in singing at the signal of the conductor.*

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREE CANDIDATE

Jeffrey Cornelius '70  
*Trustee of the University*

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE

Donald Nally '87

Gregory G. Dell'Omo

RECOGNITION OF FACULTY

Marshall Onofrio

ANTHEM: *Ave Verum Corpus*, K. 618

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
(1756 – 1791)

Tom T. Shelton, Jr., *conductor*

HYMN: *Come Down, O Love Divine* \*

DOWN AMPNEY  
arr. Douglas Byler '19

Amanda Quist, *conductor*

CLOSING WORDS: Philippians 4:8

Anthony C. Baron '11

BENEDICTION: *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

Peter Christian Lutkin  
(1858 – 1931)

Amanda Quist, *conductor*

RETIRING PROCESSION: *Pictures at an Exhibition*  
The Great Gate of Kiev

Modest Mussorgsky  
(1839 – 1881)  
adapted from Ravel's orchestration  
for brass, organ and percussion  
by Douglas Haislip

Solid Brass  
Gerald S. Custer '76, *conductor*

POSTLUDE: *Symphony No. 1*, Op.14  
Final

Louis Vierne  
(1870 – 1937)

Eric Plutz '89, *organ*

# I Sing the Mighty Power of God

*parts* 1. I sing the might - ty pow'r of God, That made the moun - tains rise;  
*unis. SA* 2. I sing the good - ness of the Lord, That filled the earth with food  
*unis. all* 3. There's not a plant or flow'r be - low, But makes Thy glo - ries known,

That spread the flow - ing seas a - broad, And built the lof - ty skies.  
Who formed the crea - tures through the Word, And then pro - nounced them good.  
And clouds a - rise, and tem - pests blow, By or - der from Thy throne.

*unis. TB* Lord, I sing the wis - dom that or - dained The sun to rule the day:  
how thy won - ders are dis - played, Where - 'er I turn my eye,  
*parts* While all that bor - rows life from Thee Is ev - er in Thy care;

The moon shines full at His com - mand, And all the stars o - bey.  
If I sur - vey the ground I tread, Or gaze up - on the sky.  
And ev - ery where that we can be, Thou, God, art pre - sent there.



# Come Down, O Love Divine

*parts* 1. Come down, O love di - vine, seek Thou this soul of mine,  
*unis. TB* 2. O let it free - ly burn, til earth - ly pas - sions turn  
*choir only* 3. Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,  
*unis. all* 4. And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

And vis - it it with Thine own ar - dor glow - ing.  
 To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
 And low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing;  
 Shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;

*unis. SA* O Com - fort - er draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,  
 And let Thy glor - ious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
 True low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,  
 For none can guess its grace, till he be - come the place

And kin - dle it, Thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
 And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
 And o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
 Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes His dwell - ing.

WORDS: Bianco of Sienna, d. 1434  
 Translated by Richard F. Littledale, 1867  
 MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

DOWN AMPNEY

# Commencement Address

## DONALD NALLY

Donald Nally conducts The Crossing, the internationally-acclaimed professional choir that commissions, premieres and records only new music. He holds the John W. Beattie Chair of Music at Northwestern University where he is professor and director of choral organizations. Dr. Nally has served as chorus master at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Welsh National Opera, Opera Philadelphia and for many seasons at the Spoleto Festival in Italy. He has commissioned more than 100 works and, with The Crossing, has produced 15 recordings. He has also served as music director of Cincinnati's Vocal Arts Ensemble, chorus master at The Chicago Bach Project and a guest conductor throughout Europe and the United States, most notably with the Grant Park Symphony Chorus, the Philharmonia Chorus in London, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale and the Latvian State Choir.

Donald Nally, with The Crossing, has received two consecutive Grammy Awards for the Best Choral Performance (2018 and 2019). He was the American Composers Forum 2017 Champion of New Music and received the Michael Korn Founders Award that year from Chorus America. He is the only conductor to have two ensembles receive the Margaret Hillis Award for Excellence in Choral Music: in 2002 with the Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia and in 2015 with The Crossing.

His collaborations have included the New York Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center, Mostly Mozart Festival, the Cleveland Museum of Art, Carnegie Hall, National Sawdust, the Barnes Foundation, Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), the American Composers Orchestra, Big Ears Festival (Knoxville) and The Big Sky Conservatory in Montana where The Crossing holds an annual residency. He has worked closely with the artists Allora & Calzadilla and composer David Lang on projects in London, Osaka, Cleveland, Edmonton and Philadelphia.

This past fall he served as music director for *The Mile Long Opera*, a new work by David Lang for 1000 voices on the High Line in New York City. In January he was chorus master for the New York Philharmonic's world premiere of works by Julia Wolfe; he will return in June for a new opera by Lang. He is currently a visiting resident artist at the Park Avenue Armory in Manhattan.

Donald Nally's 2018 - 2019 season with The Crossing includes *Aniara: fragments of time and space*, a choral-theater work over three years in the making in collaboration with Finland's Klockriketeatern and composer Robert Maggio. The Crossing will make its European debut in the Netherlands in July and take *Aniara* to Helsinki in September; it will appear with the Los Angeles Philharmonic in June. Learn more at [www.crossingchoir.org](http://www.crossingchoir.org).

Dr. Nally earned a master's degree in choral conducting from Westminster Choir College in 1987, and he has returned to campus as a visiting artist and to serve on the guest faculty of the Summer Choral Conducting Institute. At Westminster, he was a student of Joseph Flummerfelt, with whom he wrote the book *Conversations with Joseph Flummerfelt: thoughts on conducting, music, and musicians* (2011, Scarecrow Press).

He holds an undergraduate degree from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati and a doctorate from the University of Illinois.

# Charge to the Degree Candidates

## JAMES GOLDSWORTHY

In his 23 years of service to the community of Westminster Choir College and Rider University, Professor of Piano James Goldsworthy, has been an associate dean, the chair of three departments, coordinator of secondary piano, a member of University-wide and Westminster-specific committees, the recipient of a New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund Champion award and an avid student of the art of music.

Honored by Rider University's 2012 Distinguished Teaching Award, he has also taught at Goshen College, Stanford University and the University of St. Thomas. During two residencies in Vienna, one under the auspices of a Fulbright grant, Dr. Goldsworthy studied late 18th and early 19th-century fortepiano construction, did research in pianoforte instruction of the same time period and coached voice students at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst.

He has performed throughout Europe, Israel, Japan, Canada and the United States; co-edited with Judith Bettina song collections of Tobias Picker and Chester Biscardi; premiered and recorded with Judith Bettina works by Milton Babbitt, Mel Powell, Chester Biscardi, Christopher Berg, Tobias Picker and David Rakowski; and collaborated in performances with many Westminster colleagues. He holds degrees from Southern Methodist University and Stanford University, and he has studied at the Université Catholique de l'Ouest (Angers, France), the Shinichi Suzuki Talent Education Institute (Matsumoto, Japan), Universität Wien and the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Vienna.

In addition to his teaching at Westminster, Dr. Goldsworthy is on the faculty of the Bennington Chamber Music Conference, and he serves as director of music at Lamington Presbyterian Church in Bedminster, N.J. His work is a reflection of the gifts of the teaching of Dorothe Lanning, John Price, Louise Bianchi, Lloyd Pfautsch, Louise Mueller, Larry Palmer, Barbara Marquart, Alessandra Comini, Adolph Baller, Erik Werba, Margaret Fabrizio, Fenner Douglass, Susan Bindig, Wendy Hilton, Leonard Ratner and Lilo Kantorowicz-Glick.



## Participants in the Ceremony

### Solid Brass Ensemble

Betty Caldwell Goida '54, '55, *Mace Bearer*

Tom T. Shelton, Jr., *Chief Marshal*

Frank Abrahams, *President's Party Marshal*

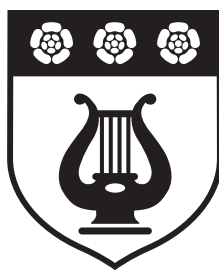
Scott Hoerl, *Administration Marshal*

Margaret Cusack, *Faculty Marshal*

Darren Dailey '89, *Alumni Marshal*

Matthew Marinelli '19, *Gonfalonier*





## Degree Candidates

The following is a list of candidates for degrees. Indication of graduation honors is based upon the cumulative grade point average after the conclusion of the fall semester. The official roster of degree recipients and the final calculation of graduation honors are recorded in the Office of the Registrar of the University.

+ Degree candidates with this symbol completed their degree requirements in December 2018.

\* Degree candidates with this symbol are expected to complete their degree requirements by August 2019.



# MASTER OF MUSIC

CHRISTOPHER ANTHONY AGGABAO  
Piano Pedagogy and Performance

CHRISTOPHER A. ANDERSON  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance

SARAH V. BAIN  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

KIRSTEN SHIPPERT BROWN  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

DOUGLAS BYLER  
Composition  
*with distinction*

CAITLIN MARIE CAVAROCCHI  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

OLIVIA ANNE COACKLEY  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

GEORGE COLE III  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance

KAITLYN ANNE CONN  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

LEANNE E. CONTINO  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

EMMA KESTNBAUM DANIELS  
Choral Conducting  
*with distinction*

DANTE ENRICO DOGANIERO  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

MILEN ARTHUR ERICKSON \*  
Sacred Music

RACHEL MORGAN FELDMAN  
Choral Conducting  
*with distinction*

KELLY L. FRENO \*  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance

FALEFIA JR. BRANDON FUAMATU  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance

KATHERINE ANN GLINKA  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

ALYSSA HICKS  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

KELLY CHRISTINA HOOD  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance

JESSICA LYNNE HUETTEMAN  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

SHELBY LYNN JACKLOSKI  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

SUNYOUNG JEE  
Sacred Music

GEORGE JOHNSON III  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance

KAYVON KASHANI-GHARAVI  
Choral Conducting

EUI-RYUN KIM \*  
Organ Performance

KELSEY OLIVIA LEWIS  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance

TIMOTHY WHITON LUPIA  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

HULDA SIF OLAFSDOTTIR  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance

JOHANNA MARIE OLSON  
Choral Conducting  
*with distinction*

LEVI TARRANT PRATT \*  
Sacred Music

SHAUNA ELIZABETH PUCCIO  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

REBECCA JOCELYN RICE  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

ZACKARY DOUGLAS ROSS \*  
Sacred Music

YESUN SHIN \*  
Sacred Music

MIRANDA LAMMERS SMITH  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

JOHN ROBERT SWEDBERG  
Sacred Music  
*with distinction*

EVA RACHEL TAMSKY  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

SARAH ELIZABETH THOMAS  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

JESSICA L. VANCE  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance  
*with distinction*

GLORIA WING YEE WAN \*  
Choral Conducting

HAOCHEN WANG \*  
Choral Conducting

MENGLEI ZHOU \*  
Voice Pedagogy and Performance

ZIJUN ZHU \*  
Piano Pedagogy and Performance

# MASTER OF MUSIC EDUCATION

CHARLOTTE CHONG  
*with distinction*

LAUREN GRACE SANDER \*

SUSANNA SAN SAN SAW  
*with distinction*

# MASTER OF VOICE PEDAGOGY

AMY E. BARTRAM  
*with distinction*

ALISA HAUSER  
*with distinction*

PHAEDRA GARYEE MCNORTON  
*with distinction*

MICHELLE DEFRANCESCO BYTHROW +  
*with distinction*

# BACHELOR OF MUSIC

MEGAN LEIGH ANDERSON  
Music Education  
*cum laude*

MARISSA CECELIA DEVEAU  
Music Education  
*summa cum laude*

JULIE MARIE HEMMINGWAY  
Music Education  
*summa cum laude*

ERIC T. BECKER \*  
Music Education

JULIA HEATHER DONAHUE  
Music Education  
*summa cum laude*

HANNAH MICHAELA HILLING  
Music Education  
*summa cum laude*

CORINNE M. BERNTSEN  
Voice Performance  
*cum laude*

OLIVIA ROSE DOWDEN  
Music Education  
*summa cum laude*

ZACHARY ROBERT KENT  
Music Education  
*magna cum laude*

CHRISTOPHER CARMEN BONANNI  
Theory/Composition  
*magna cum laude*

ASHLEY NICOLE DUPONT  
Music Education  
*magna cum laude*

HANNAH KIM  
Music Education  
*summa cum laude*

AMY ELIZABETH BRANDT  
Voice Performance  
*summa cum laude*

JUSTIN P. FARRELL +  
Music Education

ADAM R. LEE +  
Music Education  
*cum laude*

REBECCA FIONA CHERNAVSKY  
Voice Performance  
*cum laude*

RICHMOND D. GARRICK +  
Piano  
*cum laude*

NATALYA MARIE LEISTIKO  
Piano  
*cum laude*  
BACCALAUREATE HONORS

JILLIAN ROBYN CORN  
Music Education  
*summa cum laude*

LAUREN ROSE GOLDMAN +  
Music Education  
*summa cum laude*

ELIZABETH PATRICIA LIVINGSTON  
Music Education  
*cum laude*

ALEX PAUL DELBAR  
Music Education  
*summa cum laude*

LAUREN ETHEL HALLEY +  
Music Education

ALEXA THERESE LUCCHESSE  
Music Education  
*magna cum laude*

SAMUEL AARON DENLER  
Music Education  
*summa cum laude*

KRISTA ANN HASTINGS  
Voice Performance  
*summa cum laude*

ALIX MACRI \*  
Theory/Composition  
*cum laude*

ALEXA MAJANA  
Piano  
*magna cum laude*

MATTHEW JENSEN MARINELLI  
Voice Performance  
*magna cum laude*

RENÉ RUDOLF MIVILLE  
Voice Performance  
*summa cum laude*

REBECCA LYNN NIXON  
Voice Performance  
*summa cum laude*

JENNIFER ANNE O'BRIEN  
Voice Performance  
*summa cum laude*

MEGAN ELIZABETH O'CONNOR +  
Music Education  
*summa cum laude*

ALEXANDER JOHN PINO \*  
Sacred Music

ASHLEY ELIZABETH ROSS  
Sacred Music

KELLY ANNE RUGGIERI +  
Music Education  
*summa cum laude*

OLIVIA ELLEN SANDEL  
Sacred Music  
*summa cum laude*

LAUREN GRACE SANDER  
Music Education  
*summa cum laude*

SOPHIA SANTIAGO \*  
Voice Performance

PETER N. SCHERTZ +  
Sacred Music  
*cum laude*

JEREMY H. SIVITZ  
Voice Performance  
*summa cum laude*

McKENZIE LEE SMITH  
Voice Performance  
*cum laude*

REBECCA ANNE SMITH  
Voice Performance

CECELIA DIANE SNOW +  
Music Education

BRIANNA LEE SUPER  
Music Education  
*summa cum laude*

LAUREN B. TANNEN \*  
Piano

VANESSA MARIE TRAUGER  
Music Education  
*summa cum laude*

CAMILLE KATHLEEN WATSON  
Music Education  
*magna cum laude*

MADISON ALICE ZAHORSKY  
Voice Performance  
*summa cum laude*  
BACCALAUREATE HONORS

## BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC

KATHERINE R. ARNOLD  
*magna cum laude*

JADE TIARA BLOCKER \*

ABIGAIL THERESA BLOSS \*

JIM CALDERON +

TAYLOR J. CONSIGLIO  
*cum laude*

JENNA MARIE CULBERTSON \*

PAUL DAVID FLOOD  
*magna cum laude*

MARGARET ANNE FOSTER  
*summa cum laude*

ZACHARY RYEN FULCHER \*

OSCAR ROSS LICHEN +  
*magna cum laude*

VIVIENNE ELEANOR LONGSTREET \*  
*cum laude*

BRANDI N. MCLEOD \*

DANIELLE JOY VERGULDI  
*summa cum laude*



# Awards

## SGA OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

PAUL DAVID FLOOD

## ANDREW J. RIDER SCHOLARS

ELENA BYASSE\*  
TAYLOR CULLEN  
JESSICA FORBES\*  
PALMER HAFFNER\*

CHRISTIAN KOLLER\*  
JOHN LUCADO\*  
ARIELLE NUMATA  
LINDSEY REINHARD\*

BENNETT SPOTTS  
MALA WEISSBERG  
\*Second-year scholar

## RIDER UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S AWARD

KELLY RUGGIERI

# WESTMINSTER COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Rider University's **WESTMINSTER COLLEGE OF THE ARTS** inspires and empowers innovative artists and leaders to transform their communities through the arts. With world-class programs in art, dance, music, music theatre and theatre, and based in Princeton and Lawrenceville, New Jersey, the College consists of three divisions: Westminster Choir College, The School of Fine and Performing Arts, and Westminster Conservatory of Music, a music school for pre-college students.

**Westminster Choir College** is a college of music and graduate school located in Princeton, N.J. Renowned for its tradition of choral excellence, Westminster has become a center of excellence in solo performance as well. Its programs include music education; music theory and composition; sacred music; voice, organ, and piano performance and pedagogy; choral conducting; and piano accompanying and coaching. Westminster's graduates go on to successful careers as performers and in leadership positions in schools, churches, community organizations and businesses around the world.

**The School of Fine and Performing Arts** is located on Rider's Lawrenceville campus. Its programs include arts administration, dance, music studies, musical theatre, popular music culture, theatre and visual arts. The School provides many opportunities for all students to participate in the arts.

**Westminster Conservatory of Music** serves the Central New Jersey/Eastern Pennsylvania area with on-campus and community-based music instruction. The community music school of Westminster College of the Arts, it offers a superior faculty and tailors lessons, workshops and classes to the needs of the individual student.

**Rider University** is a private co-educational university with campuses in Lawrenceville and Princeton, New Jersey, which emphasizes purposeful connections between academic study and education for the professions. Its five colleges – The College of Business Administration; College of Liberal Arts, and Sciences; the College of Education and Human Services; the College of Continuing Studies and Westminster College of the Arts – provide rigorous, hands-on learning that prepares students to think critically and communicate clearly to become socially responsible leaders.



# Westminster Firsts

## A Classical Legacy

- 1920**  
Westminster Choir was established by John Finley Williamson at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio.
- 1926**  
The Westminster Choir School was founded.
- 1928**  
Westminster Choir and the Cincinnati Symphony made the nation's first coast-to-coast radio broadcast, aired over Station WLW.
- 1929**  
Westminster Choir College was established and moved to Ithaca College.
- 1932**  
Westminster Choir College moved to Princeton, N.J.
- 1934**  
As the first official American guests of the Soviet Union, with whom the United States had just resumed diplomatic relations, Westminster Choir made the first broadcast from Russia to the United States.
- 1938**  
Westminster Choir, with conductor and founder Dr. John Finley Williamson, presented the first U.S. performance of Joseph Haydn's *Passion (The Seven Last Words)*. The performance also featured a volunteer orchestra of Princetonians, including Albert Einstein in the violin section. • The Choir sang at the dedication of the New York World's Fair.
- 1939**  
Westminster Choir sang for the first time with the New York Philharmonic. Since then, it has set a record for the number of joint performances—more than 500—by a single choir and orchestra.
- 1957**  
Westminster Choir completed a five-month, globe-circling tour under the auspices of the U.S. State Department's Cultural Exchange Program. The Choir performed in 22 countries, traveled 40,000 miles and appeared before 227,000 people.
- 1964**  
Westminster Choir sang on the Telstar World-Wide Telecast in the spring for the opening ceremonies of the New York World's Fair. This reportedly was the largest audience ever to see a television show at that time.
- 1971**  
Westminster Choir performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts during the inaugural week of concerts with the Piedmont Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Nicholas Harsanyi. The work performed was *The Dawn of Glory* by Christian Lattre.
- 1972**  
Westminster Choir began its first summer as the chorus-in-residence for the Festival dei Due Mondi (Festival of Two Worlds) in Spoleto, Italy, at the invitation of Gian Carlo Menotti.
- 1977**  
Westminster Choir became the first chorus-in-residence at the Spoleto Festival U.S.A. in Charleston, S.C., at the invitation of Gian Carlo Menotti.
- 1978**  
Westminster Choir established its own recording label, copyrighted "Westminster Choir," and released its first recording: *Six Motets of Johann Sebastian Bach*, with guest conductor Wilhelm Ehmann.
- 1980**  
Westminster Choir was the first choir to be featured on the "Live from Lincoln Center" telecast series over National Public Television. The Choir performed Verdi's Requiem with the New York Philharmonic and Zubin Mehta.
- 1982**  
Westminster Choir was part of the 10,000th performance of the New York Philharmonic.
- 1988**  
Westminster Choir sang Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* with the New York Philharmonic under the composer's direction in a performance at Carnegie Hall celebrating the 45th anniversary of Bernstein's conducting debut with the orchestra.
- 1990**  
Westminster Symphonic Choir sang in the Leonard Bernstein memorial concert at the invitation of the Bernstein family.
- 1991**  
Westminster Symphonic Choir performed at Carnegie Hall's 100th Anniversary Celebration.
- 1992**  
Westminster Choir College merged with Rider University. • Westminster Symphonic Choir performed in "A Tribute to Riccardo Muti" with The Philadelphia Orchestra and Maestro Muti, a performance televised nationally on the Arts & Entertainment Cable Network.
- 1993**  
Conducted by Wolfgang Sawallisch, Westminster Symphonic Choir participated in The Philadelphia Orchestra's first performance of Britten's *War Requiem*.
- 1996**  
Westminster Choir, conducted by Joseph Flummerfelt, traveled on a concert tour of Korea and Taiwan and performed in the Colmar Music Festival in Colmar, France.
- 2001**  
Westminster Choir and the New York Philharmonic, conducted by Joseph Flummerfelt, performed the world premiere of Stephen Paulus' *Voices of Light*, commissioned by Rider University to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of Westminster Choir College.
- 2002**  
To commemorate the events of September 11, 2001, Westminster Choir was featured in the PRI national radio broadcast of "In the Shadow of the Towers." They were joined by President George W. Bush and former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. • Westminster Symphonic Choir's performance of Verdi's Requiem with the New Jersey Symphony was broadcast nationally by PBS.
- 2004**  
Westminster Choir premiered *Arise My Love* by Stephen Paulus, a gift from the composer to celebrate Joseph Flummerfelt's extraordinary career. • Westminster's artistic director, Joseph Flummerfelt, was named Musical America's 2004 Conductor of the Year, the first choral conductor to be so honored.
- 2005**  
Westminster Symphonic Choir performed Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé* (complete) for the first time with the New York Philharmonic, conducted by Lorin Maazel.
- 2006**  
Westminster Symphonic Choir participated in the New York Philharmonic's first performance of Mozart's Mass in C Major, K. 317 "Coronation," conducted by Lorin Maazel. • Joe Miller appointed director of choral activities and conductor of the Westminster Choir and the Westminster Symphonic Choir.
- 2007**  
Rider University established Westminster College of the Arts. • Westminster Williamson Voices presented the North American premiere of James Whitbourn's *Annelies: The Anne Frank Oratorio*. • Westminster Symphonic Choir opened the Carnegie Hall season performing Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, conducted by David Robertson.
- 2009**  
Westminster Choir and Joe Miller released their first recording, *Flower of Beauty*.
- 2010**  
Westminster Williamson Voices premiered James Whitbourn's *Requiem Canticozum*, and the Westminster Choir premiered Jaakko Mäntyjärvi's *To a Locomotive in Winter*.
- 2012**  
Westminster Symphonic Choir performed with Gustavo Dudamel and the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra for the first time.
- 2014**  
The Westminster Williamson Voices' and James Jordan's recording of James Whitbourn's *Annelies*, the first major choral setting of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, was nominated for a GRAMMY Award for Best Choral Performance. • Westminster Symphonic Choir performed the New York premiere of Christopher Rouse's Requiem with the New York Philharmonic conducted by Alan Gilbert.
- 2015**  
Westminster Symphonic Choir performed Leonard Bernstein's *Mass: A Theater Piece for Singers, Players and Dancers* for the first time with The Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin.
- 2016**  
Westminster Kantorei performed in England and France. • Westminster Williamson Voices performed Arvo Pärt's *Kanon Pokanjanen* at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Temple of Dendur.
- 2017**  
*Lumina*, Westminster Kantorei's first recording on the Westminster Choir College label, was released. • Westminster Choir represented the United States at the World Symposium on Choral Music in Barcelona.
- 2018**  
Westminster Symphonic Choir performed the world premiere of Tod Machover's *Philadelphia Voices* with The Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin. • Westminster Choir performed at the International Students Choral Festival in Beijing, China.

