



LIBERTY
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL of MUSIC



I LOVE AMERICA!



A CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY



TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026 AT 7:30 P.M.

CENTER FOR MUSIC AND THE WORSHIP ARTS, CONCERT HALL

I Love America!

Dr. Zachary Bruno, *conductor*

Program

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

Traditional
arr. Billy Payne

LU Symphony Orchestra

This Land is Your Land

Words & Music by Woody Guthrie
arr. Bob Krogstad

Mindy Damon & Paul Randlett, *soloists*
The Choral Union
LU Symphony Orchestra

Welcome and Invocation

The Pledge of Allegiance

The Star-Spangled Banner

Words by Francis Scott Key
Music by John Stafford Smith
arr. John Hugo

Chamber Singers
John Hugo, *director*

I Love America!

Dr. Robert Schultz
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

America the Beautiful

Music by Samuel Ward
arr. Joseph M. Martin & David Angerman

Mindy Damon, *soloist*
The Choral Union
LU Symphony Orchestra

The Freedom Medley

arr. Gabriel Miller

E41

God Bless America/God Bless the USA

arr. Stephen Müller

Shine

Sound of America Suite

Music by Jon Werking
Orchestrated by Kim Scharnberg

I. Overture

II. America the Beautiful

III. Interlude

IV. Where My Heart Calls Home

V. Interlude

VI. Sound of America's Song

Charles Billingsley, Sherry Montgomery, Patrick Shorts, Jon Werking, *soloists*
The Choral Union
LU Symphony Orchestra

The Declaration of Independence

Daryl Duff, *narrator*

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Words by Julia Ward Howard
Music by William Steffe
arr. Peter Wilhousky

The Choral Union
LU Symphony Orchestra

Salute to the Armed Forces

The Choral Union
LU Symphony Orchestra

arr. Camp Kirkland & Kara Lewis '26

Remarks

Dr. Stephen Müller
Dean, School of Music

There She Stands

Words by Wes King
Music by Michael W. Smith
arr. David Hamilton

The Stars and Stripes Forever

LU Symphony Orchestra

John Philip Sousa

- GUEST PERFORMERS -



From the stages of Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center to numerous churches and conferences around the country, **Charles Billingsley** has been one of Christian music's most distinctive artists for over 30 years. Beginning his career as a lead vocalist for GRAMMY®-nominated genre giant NewSong, Billingsley has since headlined more than 3,300 concerts, released 26 recordings as a solo artist, and garnered seven #1 Inspirational radio hits. He is the author of three devotional books: *Lord Use Me*, *Words on Worship*, and *More Words on Worship*. A sought-after worship leader and speaker at such events as Women of Joy, the Gridiron Men's Conference, and Celebrators Conference, among others, Billingsley currently serves as the teaching pastor and worship leader at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia, as well as an adjunct instructor at Liberty University.

Dr. Mindy Damon serves as Professor of Commercial Music and Voice and is the Coordinator for the Commercial Music Performance program. Previous teaching engagements include Winthrop University, (1991-1993), Southern University (1994-2000), Seminole State (2000-2002), San Diego Christian College (2002-2005), Charlotte Christian School (2006-2013), and has enjoyed teaching at Liberty University since 2013.

She continues to enjoy a stylistically diverse performance and notes some of her favorite performances as soprano at Walt Disney World's "Voices of Liberty" (EPCOT), Sea World San Diego, Southwest Virginia Opera, Southern Lyric Opera, Jupiter Theatre, touring vocalist for Dr. David Jeremiah's Turning Point Ministry, and featured vocalist at the Estill 7th World Voice Symposium in Quebec.



Dr. Damon holds a B.S. in Vocal Performance from Liberty University, M.M. in Vocal Performance from Winthrop University, Ed.S. and Ed. D. in Education, and Doctor of Worship Studies from Liberty University.



Dr. E. Daryl Duff is Associate Professor of Commercial Voice and a retired U.S. Navy Chief Musician who served 23 years as soloist with the United States Navy Band Sea Chanters Chorus (1990–2013). While stationed in Washington, D.C., he provided musical support for four U.S. Presidents and senior military and government leaders and appeared as a featured soloist on seven Navy Band recordings and nationally televised concerts. His performance credits include the White House, U.S. Capitol, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Constitution Hall, and international engagements in England, Ukraine, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Recent appearances include soloist and narrator for Liberty University Convocation, performances with the Roanoke and Lynchburg Symphony Orchestras, and the premiere of Amy Riebs Mill's *Three More Wise Men* (2025). Dr. Duff holds a Ph.D. in Christian Worship with emphasis in African American Worship from Liberty University and joined faculty in 2017.

Dr. John Hugo is no stranger to the performance stage at Liberty University. In 2025, he stepped down as director of the Concert Choir after 37 years of continuous service in that role. He has been the Chorus Master of the Roanoke Symphony Chorus for over 25 years. Over his time at LU, Dr. Hugo has conducted over 100 performances of the Concert Choir and University Chorale. He is the composer of both the Alma Mater (Champions, Arise), and the university fight song (Fan the Flames). At age 70, Dr. Hugo continues to lead singing at TRBC Sunday Evening Bible Center Meetings, and in the Pastor's Bible Class. He and his wife, flutist Alycia Hugo, present chamber music programs as members of the Bellezza Chamber Ensemble. Dr. Hugo currently teaches Music in America, Music History, Vocal Diction, and private voice, and serves as the Chairman of the Department of Ensembles.



- GUEST PERFORMERS -



Dr. Sherry Montgomery, D.M.A. (Shenandoah Conservatory), M.M. (Florida State University), and B.M. (James Madison University), is Assistant Professor of Voice and Music Education at Liberty University and Director of Women's Chorus and University Chorale. An accomplished director, educator, and performer, she is committed to cultivating artistic excellence and using music as a means of expression and service and is honored to serve in the School of Music.

She has appeared as a soloist, including The City Choir of Washington, and has received recognition in national competitions, including the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Competition and the Shenandoah Bach-Handel Competition.

With more than twenty-five years of experience, Dr. Montgomery's students have gone on to perform professionally on the stage and in commercial music, as well as serve as music educators and leaders. She continues to cultivate expressive, skilled musicians and is honored to perform as a soloist in this evening's "I Love America!" concert.

Dr. Stephen Müller started his career in higher education in 2013 as a faculty member, applied instructor and ensemble director in the School of Music.

He is the founder and director of the School of Music's a cappella group, Shine. Shine performs at local events and travels throughout the country singing at conferences and churches such as the National Day of Prayer events in Washington D.C., National Religious Broadcasters convention in Nashville, 8th Annual Christmas in New York at Carnegie Hall, Brooklyn Tabernacle, Shadow Mountain Community Church, and at the National Convention for the Christian Medical and Dental Association.

Since January 2020, Dr. Müller has served as the dean of the School of Music. He considers it an honor to serve in this role and to train and equip the next generation of musicians for Christ.



Dr. Paul Randlett is a respected worship leader, choral director, and award-winning educator whose passion for training future worship leaders led him into higher education in 2007. He earned both his undergraduate degree in Sacred Music and a Master of Arts in Worship Studies from Liberty University and holds a Ph.D. in Christian Worship with an emphasis in Higher Education from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

With nearly 30 years of ministry experience, Dr. Randlett has led worship in churches of all sizes across Virginia, Florida, and Tennessee. He has coordinated worship for the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia Annual Meeting and has served as a featured soloist with the Mass Choir at the Southern Baptist National Convention. His experience includes directing vocal and instrumental ensembles of varied scope and complexity.

Currently, Dr. Randlett serves as Associate Dean of the School of Music. He and his wife, Jenny, have been married for 28 years and are proud parents and grandparents.

Prof. Patrick Shorts is an artist and musician known for his soulful voice, inspirational songwriting and contemporary arranging. Born and raised in Lincoln, Delaware, Patrick's greatest inspiration is his musically gifted parents and siblings. Among obtaining his degree from Liberty University, he has served and led various ministry teams to share the gospel all across the globe, such as LU Praise and Liberty Worship Collective. He is also known for his collaboration with various artists CeCe Winans, Kirk Franklin, Richard Smallwood, Passion City Music, Bishop SY Younger, Michael W. Smith and many more.

His debut single in 2017 titled "Lead Me To The Rock" was followed by an EP in 2019 and later an instrumental album entitled "Ascend" in 2024.



- GUEST PERFORMERS -



Prof. Jon Werking has performed and/or recorded with a wide range of artists including Wynton Marsalis, Edina Menzel, The Manhattan Transfer, Toni Braxton, Patti LaBelle, Liza Minelli, The New York Pops, The Boston Pops, The Albany Symphony Orchestra, Steven Curtis Chapman, Edwin McCain, Bruce Hornsby, Rueben Stoddard and Taylor Hicks (both from American Idol), Roberta Flack, Michael and Randy Brecker, Grover Washington Jr. and (saxophonist) Bill Evans.

Jon is the featured pianist with the Buddy Rich Big Band on the "Burning for Buddy" tribute album. He was the in-house accompanist for the "Regis and Kelly Show" from 2005-2007 and performed on the Tony awards and with "The Voice" show. He also performed at two presidential inaugurations (Bill Clinton, 1996 and George W. Bush, 2004, respectively). He's performed on movie soundtracks such as Disney's Beauty and the Beast, You've Got Mail, The Gangs of New York and many others. Some highlights from Broadway include the Tony-award winning shows, "Fosse", "Elton John's "Aida", and Come Fly Away (Frank Sinatra tribute).

- ENSEMBLE DIRECTORS -

Dr. Zachary Bruno serves as Professor of Music and Director of the Liberty University Symphony Orchestra and Wind Symphony. From 2011 to 2022, he was Professor of Music and Director of Bands and Orchestras at Skyline College in South San Francisco, CA.

Recent conducting engagements have included the Boston Civic Symphony, the Atlantic Union Wind Symphony, the Parkway Concert Orchestra, the US Air Force Band of the Golden West, and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra through the Eastman School of Music Summer Conducting Institute. Since January 2023, he has served as Orchestra Director at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, VA, and since January 2024, he has served as Music Director of the Adirondack Performing Arts Festival at CAMP-of-the-WOODS in Speculator, NY.



Dr. Bruno holds a B.A. in Music from the University of California – Berkeley, an M.M. in Music Education from the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music, and a D.M.A. in Orchestral Conducting from Boston University. He and his wife Kathryn reside with their daughter Lily in Forest, VA.



Dr. Thomas Lerew serves as Associate Professor of Choral Music & Conducting in the School of Music at Liberty University where he teaches courses in conducting, aural theory and conducts the acclaimed Liberty Chorale and Chamber Singers.

Prior to Liberty, Dr. Lerew served eight years as Director of Choral Activities at Trevecca University in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a strong proponent of choral music in the church and has served congregations in New York, Arizona, and Tennessee. Dr. Lerew has also taught vocal music and music theory in public high schools in both Pennsylvania and New York.

Dr. Lerew has conducted choirs throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe and is in frequent demand as a clinician, presenter, and guest conductor. He holds degrees from The University of Arizona, Syracuse University, and Houghton University. His primary research areas include repertoire selection practices, music learning theory in the rehearsal setting, and the use of technology in academic productivity. He lives in Lynchburg with his wife, Kerry, and their three young children.

E41's director, **Dr. Gabriel Miller**, serves as Professor of Music Theory and Worship at Liberty, where he also oversees residential graduate programs in music. He concurrently serves as worship pastor and teaching elder at All Peoples Church in Lynchburg. Dr. Miller previously served on the faculties of Louisiana Christian University and the University of Louisiana.

Dr. Miller's contributions to the discipline are diverse. He has presented theory papers at Yale, Cincinnati CCM, and other various regional theory conferences. He co-authored the music theory textbooks used at LU, and he is the author of five other books in the fields of worship and Christian devotion. He has written many original worship songs, and he has produced two live worship albums. He is also the creator of *The Purpose of Your Life* podcast.

Dr. Miller serves alongside his wife, fellow SOM faculty member, Dr. Samantha Miller. They have two sons, Bowden and Jude.



Dr. Sherry Montgomery – see Guest Performers

Dr. Stephen Müller – see Guest Performers

Dr. Paul Randlett – see Guest Performers

- ENSEMBLES -

Liberty University Symphony Orchestra Dr. Zachary Bruno, *director*

Violin 1

Miriam Thompson*
Greta Gans
Micah Palmer
Clara Brown
Avielle Sotomayor
Ranan Judy
Edwin Mazariegos
Ava Stuart
Annetta Sihan
Aliya Bychkov

Violin 2

Andrea Picard*
Sophie Chamberlin
Claire Pell
Kate Thyng
Sarah Lenart
Josephine Ellett
Camila Picard
Isabel Prinzi
Stephen Fonseca
Nathaniel Graybeal

Viola

Scarlett Gans*
Alexa Winnberg
Elaine Krell
Anna Caryl
Ella Otto
Riley Barden
Aurelia Inskeep

Cello

Jonathan Blake*
Alex York
Gavin Knolle
Elizabeth Yoon
Felix de Vries
Bruce Mitchell
Hannah Smith
Olivia Graef
Jessie McNeel
Bethany Rodriguez
Donna Miller
Corey-Lee Radford

Double Bass

Justin Henderson*
Isaiah Cothrin

Flute

Allison Ahl*
Kendra Meyer

Oboe

Nolan Havener*
Maddy Nelson

Clarinet

Mia Palma*
Gabby Vivona

Bassoon

Aldo Castro*
Nicholas Torres

Horn

Elizabeth Hoisington*
Nicole Davis
Kieran Clayton
Nicholas Evener

Trumpet

Tyler Garman*
Whitley Capps
Shepard Wells

Trombone

Brett Baumgartner*
Alex Harmon

Bass Trombone

Tommy Nettleship*

Tuba

Jonathan Farley*

Timpani

Ethan Brown*

Percussion

Xavier Garland*
Bradey Earls
Bekah Zapanta
Jacob Duncan
Hannah Bateman

Harp

Analia Malcolm*

Keyboard/Organ

Andy Bertolino*

Guitar

Matthew Petralia

*denotes principal

- ENSEMBLES -

Chamber Singers Dr. Thomas Lerew, *director*

Soprano

Sarah Bromke
Eve Hodges
Ruth Smirnov
Lydia Sutton

Alto

Bella Chambers
Maria Douglas
Jordyn Stott
Erica Windsor

Tenor

Ben Butler
Owen Crawford
David Dorris

Bass

Jeremy Kang
Noah De Yarman
William Dykes
Josiah Worsley

E41

Dr. Gabriel Miller, *director*

Ava Piland – soprano
Ashley Miller – alto
Jonah Barrow – tenor, dobro

Grace Bemus – fiddle
Quinn Spesshardt – guitar
Gabe Baska – banjo
Lilianna Yates – bass
Clara Prince – drums

Shine

Dr. Stephen Müller, *director*

Dakota Belcher
Benjamin Bowers
Kastien Chambliss
Marianna Grace Davis
RE Holland

Abigail Phillips
Reilly Stenstrom
Aaron Webster
Anna Wehr

Concert Choir

Dr. Thomas Lerew, *director*

Soprano

Heidi Allen
Hannah Barker
Grace Batterman
Sarah Bromke
Isabella Chambers
Allison Davis
Kira Gallander
Fabiola Gonzalez
Emily Hadden
Lydia Harris
Eve Hodges
Lauren Nelson
Ruth Smirnov
Lydia Sutton
Ana Zeneli

Alto

Autumn Clifford
Abigail Dimarino
Maria Douglas
Sierra Gomes
Ainsley Innes
Kasey Kerbo
Ava Knight
McKayla Martin
Isabel Norton
Isabelle Phillips
Eden Semones
Jacqueline Smith
Jordyn Stott
Anna Waldron
Erica Windsor
Rylee Walter

Tenor

Ben Butler
Noah Caldwell
Josiah Chaffin
Isaiah Cofield
Owen Crawford
David Dorris
Jonathan Fortune
Kellon Lincoln
Devin Nyvall
Camden Walker

Bass

Josiah Austin
Noah De Yarman
William Dykes
Joshua Graham
Jeremy Kang
Jonah Kirschner
Peter Schumacher
Cooper Wit
Josiah Worsley
Jonathan Wutka

- ENSEMBLES -

University Chorale Dr. Sherry Montgomery, *director*

Soprano

Abigail Watford
Alayna McIntosh
Annabelle Jarrell
Emma-Lee McGill
Jenna Quinn
Jordyn Warsaw
Lily Hutchinson
Nancie Perez Cutright
Yvonne Groszkiewicz
Abigail Hatley
Ansley Strandburg
Christine Chalupka
Elizabeth Bryant
Karsin Williams
Marta Hostettler
Martha Foltz
Mikayla Parker
Olivia Fogarty
Peyton Yowell
Rebecca Thomas
Skyla Carnevale

Alto

Abigail Byers
Ashley Mazurek
Bethel Queen
Charlotte Kellam
Isabel Knolton
Jessica Kucharczuk
Johanna Karunakar
Joy Mason
Kara Lewis
Karis Jarvis
Madison Arnold
Michaela Kessler
Rachel Henson
Riley Ours
Summer Stacy
Summer Stacy
Sydney Althouse
Abigail Kliewer
Abigail Lyles
Claudia Groszkiewicz
Faith Kopp
Hannah Brubaker
Hannah Carr
Keylea Slaton
Leah Rea
Lily Mills
Lydia Pope
Mary Lawry
Ngoc Bao Ngan To
Samantha Glick
Shelby Dryman
Sophia Ayres

Tenor

Cameron Beecher
Deresse Barnes
Israel Root
Kaitlyn Gokey
Robert Mason Sandifer
Dylan Kerr
Geoffrey Isom
Jonathan Blake
Luke Suter
Matthew Schaap
Micah Vielma
Robert Barrick

Bass

Austin Tisland
Felts, Exie Felts
James Summers
Lucas Haab
Micah Littlejohn
Samuel Thomas
Zachariah Penrod
Andrew McMahon
Benjamin Antonov
Caleb Marcellus
Cole Webb
Drew Salvigsen
Isaac Marshall
Jonah Nice
Noah Gick

Women's Chorus Dr. Sherry Montgomery, *director*

Soprano

Hannah Barker
Lydia Miller*
Rachel Henson
Taylor Knapp
Victoria Meeker
Brianna McCall
Emily Fox
Machaela Unger
Savannah Anderson

Alto

Adellaie Jung
Anna Grant
Anna Taylor
Mia Lemon
Abigail Lyles
Cassandra Hibbard
Daniela Rolon-Rivera
Grace Clark
Madeline Wallace
Sofia Alfageme

- ENSEMBLES -

Worship Choir Dr. Paul Randlett, *director*

Soprano

Kylee Amstutz
Abigail Bass
Hannah Barker
Rebecca Bronson
Megan Cacese
Dianny Campo
Megan DiSebastian
Katie Duncan
Kaylin Fogg
Ashley Foszcz
Lauren Good
Bethany Hall
Georgia Hathaway
Leta Hixon
Sarah Hoffman
Timeea Naomi Laura Iercan
Ariyah Jamerson
Karissa King
Lorelai Kliber
Taylor Knapp
McKenna Knouse
Madison Lally
Emma Martin
Laura Martin
McKayla Martin
MaeLee McMurry
Emma McMullen
Caitlyn Nail
Eden Noyes
Leah Park
Maddie Persons
Ellabay Perry
Ava Catherine Piland
Alona Price
Bethel Queen
Hannah Queen
Olivia Radabaugh
Trinity Riollano
Kristen Rudlaff
Shiloh Skipper
Sydney Smith
Hope Steinman
Emma Grace Stewart
Sabrinna Ugalde
Ariel Wagner
Katrice Weaver
Anna Wehr
Avery Whitfield

Altos

Annie Alban
Sophia Ayres
Terri Atkinson
Ava Briley
Autumn Clifford
Lilyanna Coots
Reilly Cruff
Shelby Dryman
Alayna Eye
Macy Eye
Alivia Gillispie
Gareth Glen
Selah Harding
Sarai Hanna
Eden Hoback
Moriah Joseph
Sydney Kittrell
Krysta Klodt
Grace Knight
Marlee Lawhon
Olivia Lawson
Mia Lemon
Ostilea Lewis
Zoe Ludolf
Sarai Luna
Morgan McCorvey
Casey Neher
Camille Owens
Isabella Park
Annie Ream
Cassie Rogers
Ella Rosario
Ava Claire Samson
Maya Sanders
Sydney Scrivner
Maddox Slyman
Rylan Smith
Callie Stephens
Rebekah Stokes
Annalise Sweeney
Sage Tietjen-Forsythe
Sophie Van Der Hengst
Morgan VandeLinde
Sofia Velandia
Rachel Vogan
Allie Ware
Lyndsay Weber

Tenors

Deresse Barnes
Robert Barrick
Justin Browder
Preston Campbell
Austin Carper
Jason Clark
Chasen Engel
Connor Fancher
Noah Farmer
Jacob Frazier
Elijah Goble
Graham Guy
Jaydon Hanna
Christian Hurlin
Sarah Johnson
Gunnar Kruise
Cam Marchese
Brycen McGill
Wyatt Menges
Noah Myers
Micah Olivas
Aidan Palmer
Isaiah Rock
Vinicius Rufino
Lucas Vrudney
Ethan Yacono
Carl Zimmerman

Bass

Joseph DeFriese
Malachi Gagnon
Noah Gick
Gideon Hayes
Wyatt Holland
Mason Huis
Everett Kopp
Andres Murcia
Michael Pearn
Benjamin Peronace
Nehemiah Ramaker
Drew Salvigsen
Landon Smith
Mason Tallo
Luke Thomas
Zach Wariner
Nathaniel White

**We would like to thank the
Liberty University Administration for
their faithful support of the School of Music.**

Dr. Dondi Costin, President
Dr. Scott Hicks, Provost and Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Stephen Müller, Dean, School of Music
The School of Music Administration, Faculty, and Staff

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