



FIRELANDS
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
C H O R A L E

ARTISTRY IN RHYTHM

Chorale Concert

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023 | 4 P.M.
ERNSTHAUSEN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



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MICHAEL SHIRTZ

CHORALE DIRECTOR + CONDUCTOR



Michael Shirtz is known for his versatility with jazz, contemporary, and traditional music audiences: conducting, producing and performing nationally with numerous organizations, theater, festivals, and concert productions. Shirtz remains an active vocal coach and music director for educational, repertory theatre, collegiate, and pops music productions; currently serving as music director/producer for Maureen McGovern.

Credited as a "songsmith," his shows *As I've Learned It* and *An American Songbook Story* honor jazz legends and repertoire through multimedia performances with his group, the Michael Shirtz Quartet. Shirtz released his album and inspirational-based show, *Blue Skies* in 2018. and has written music for choirs, orchestras, jazz bands, and theater available through SMP.

Shirtz has served on the faculty of Capital University, American Music Academy, Pellissippi State College-Knoxville, and Terra State Community College where he also served as dean of business, arts, and communications. Shirtz has received Ohio's Excellence in Education and Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service awards for developing curriculum and programs that provided experiential learning that impacted regional communities through the arts and established internship and training programs for students with professional theatres and concert venues.

Currently, Shirtz serves as associate director/project manager of the Tri-C JazzFest & Performing Arts Series, teaches on faculty with the Heidelberg University School of Music & Theatre, conductor of the Firelands Symphony Chorale, and remains an active vocal coach and clinician. Shirtz received a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies from Capital University and Master of Music in Conducting from California State University, Los Angeles. Shirt is a member of ASCAP, African American Jazz Caucus, American Choral Directors Association, and an advocate for mental health awareness. Shirtz is a Prima Music Foundation artist and conductor.

NOTES FROM THE PODIUM

The great producer and developer of commercial music, Quincy Jones, once said, "I only hope that one day, America will recognize what the rest of the world already has known, that our indigenous music - gospel, blues, jazz and R&B - is the heart and soul of all popular music; and that we cannot afford to let this legacy slip into obscurity, I'm telling you."

This afternoon's concert does just that...honoring the heart and soul of popular music by celebrating the artistry and rhythm that came from the sounds of the big bands through records and radio, to the tunes and tributes of the Broadway stage and silver screen. From joyous swing numbers to emotional ballads and beyond, we take a special walk down memory lane highlighting the writers, composers, and great singers who brought this music off the page and into our hearts.

We are honored to have with us graduating theatre students from Heidelberg University, Elayna Brock and Kamryn Mohny, members from the vocal ensemble Treble, and helping tell the story, we are joined once again with our friend, actor William Barrett.

We hope you sit back, relax, tap your toes, and maybe even sing along to our great legacy, artistry, and rhythm.


Michael Shirtz, Chorale Director and Conductor



GUEST ARTISTS



Elayna Brock, vocalist is a senior musical theater major at Heidelberg University. Since a young age she has always been interested in the arts, performing at small theaters in her hometown of Indianapolis, Indiana. Her acting, singing, and dancing talents have paved the way for some exciting roles on her resume, such as Roxie Hart in *Chicago* and Annie Wilkes in *Misery*, both performed at Heidelberg. Being on stage isn't her only passion. In her free time, she enjoys reading books, writing short stories and poems, and playing the bass guitar.



Kamryn Mohney, vocalist is a senior theatre major with a musical concentration and a business administration minor at Heidelberg University. She is hoping to pursue her Masters in Business Administration through Heidelberg University in August of 2024. Kamryn's favorite role she has played is Velma Kelly in *Chicago*. Once graduated, Kamryn plans to move to New York City and achieve her goals on stage.



William Barrett, narrator is a hardworking, well-known person that keeps achieving his goals, from the stage to the streets and back. A few of his achievements were narrating for the Thanksgiving chorale concerts and the story of the Late Dr. Harold Brown, becoming the assistant track coach and head cross country coach, and running half and full marathons, including NYC. His loyalty and commitment are his greatest attribute.



CHORALE VOCALISTS

Michael Shirtz, Chorale Director & Conductor

Morgan Noon, Accompanist

Soprano

Karen Bacni
Melissa Cullen
Marilyn Forster
Virginia Mamere
Jacy Marsh
Katelyn Munoz
Elisha Noon
Jo Pankow
Rhonda Quinlan

Mezzo-soprano

Kathy Below
Mary Foland
Bev Hart
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Alto

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Fonda Robinson
Heidi Sarvis-Sapp
Candace Seaman
Olga Trumpower
Carrie Jo Wahl
Terri Wilhelm

Tenor

Ron Brooker
Bill Hutchinson
Robin Mygrant
Jim Obergefell
Pamela Sayre
William Shannon
Tom Thorbahn
Marianne Weaver

Baritone

Tom Curry

Bass

Ron Blake
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Jack Hubbard
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CONCERT PROGRAM

ARTISTRY IN RHYTHM

The Firelands Symphony Chorale

Michael Shirtz, Chorale Director & Conductor

Elayna Brock and Kamryn Mohney, guest vocalists | William Barrett, narrator

March 26, 2023 at 4 p.m.

Sing Sing Sing.....Louis Prima, arr. Brymer

Come Fly With Me.....Van Heusen & Chan, arr. Mac Huff

A Tisket A Tasket.....Ella Fitzgerald, arr. Roger Emerson

It Don't Mean A Thing: The Best of Duke Ellington.....Ellington, Strayhorn, Mills, Bigard, Mercer,
arr. Shaw

Take the A Train

Mood Indigo

Satin Doll

It Don't Mean A Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing

Black Coffee.....Burke & Webster

Stormy Weather.....Arlen & Koehler

I'll Be Seeing You / White Cliffs of Dover.....Fain & Kahal / Kent & Burton, arr. Shirtz

Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy.....Raye & Prince, arr. Metis

Members from the vocal ensemble Treble

Selections from "Chicago".....Kander & Ebb

"West Side Story" Choral Suite.....arr. Mac Huff

Somethings Coming

Tonight

Maria

One Hand, One Heart

I Feel Pretty

Cool

America

Somewhere

Sondheim! A Choral Celebration.....arr. Mac Huff

Comedy Tonight

Into the Woods

Not While I'm Around

Losing My Mind

Send in the Clowns

The Little Things You Do Together

Being Alive

As Long As I'm Singing My Song.....Bobby Darin, arr. Shaw



SPECIAL THANKS

- Narrations created by Michael Shirtz.
- Ernsthausen Performing Arts Center for hosting this afternoon's concert and supporting The Firelands Symphony Chorale.
- Heidelberg University School of Music and Dance
- Pastor Pamela J. Sayre and Huron United Methodist Church for hosting the symphony chorale rehearsals.
- Volunteer ushers from FSO Board of Directors and Sandusky State Theatre

All of our chorale sponsors from this season:

William & Jean Bossetti

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ABOUT

The Firelands Symphony Chorale is an auditioned choir of singers that serves as chorus-in-residence for the Firelands Symphony Orchestra. Under the direction of Michael Shirtz, the chorale performs with the orchestra throughout the season, as well as presents additional concerts and choral festival performances.

Performing classical and contemporary choral music, the group provides singers the opportunity for concentrated study, rehearsal, and performance of repertoire, as well as educational programs for singers and choir directors to support regional choral ensembles.



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