

AWARD-WINNING VOCALISTS FROM SALISBURY UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE
P R E S E N T

SINGERS' SHOWCASE NATS EDITION WITH A *Twist*

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JOHN WESLEY WRIGHT | PIANISTS WILLIAM M. FOLGER, VERONICA TOMANEK



THURSDAY & FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 & 14, 2020
HOLLOWAY HALL, GREAT HALL | 7:30 P.M.
1101 CAMDEN AVENUE | SALISBURY, MD 21801

SINGERS' SHOWCASE NATS EDITION WITH A *Twist*

Featuring

2020 NATS Student Audition Competitors

Jeremiah Copeland, Olivia Davidson, Joshua Dennis, Michelina DeVeas, Lance Fisher, Patrick Gover, Jessica Johnson,
Kadie Laramore, Kate McLoughlin, Emely Martin, Sara Miller, Gianna Pesaniello

Artistic Director

Dr. John Wesley Wright

Faculty Coaches

Dr. John Wesley Wright, Jennifer Hope Wills,
Dr. William Folger, Veronica Tomanek

Pianists

Dr. William Folger & Veronica Tomanek

2020 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SINGING STUDENT AUDITION REPERTOIRE

Audience members choose tonight's program from the following selections

"Bel piacere" from *Agrippina*George Frideric Handel

Amar y sufrirLuis Gonzaga Jordá

Into the NightClara Edwards

Kate McLoughlin, soprano

"Oh! Had I Jubal's Lyre" from *Joshua*George Frideric Handel

Il mio bel focoFrancesco Conti, attr. Benedetto Marcello

Into the NightClara Edwards

Michelina DeVeas, soprano

"Vedrai carino" from *Don Giovanni*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Kling!Richard Strauss

Take, O Take Those Lips AwayAmy Beach

Kadie Laramore, soprano

"Lonely House" from *Street Scene*Kurt Weill
 Non t'amo piuPaolo Tosti
 Der Jüngling an der QuelleFranz Schubert
 "Quel galant m'est comparable" from *Five Popular Greek Melodies*Maurice Ravel

Joshua Dennis, tenor

Sweet Suffolk OwlRichard Hundley
 La ZingaraNicola d'Arienzo
 "C'est l'extase langoureuse" from *Ariettes oubliées*Claude Debussy
 "Adele's Laughing Song" from *Die Fledermaus*Johann Strauss II

Olivia Davidson, soprano

NebbieOttorino Respighi
 "Faites-lui mes aveux" from *Faust*Charles Gounod
 "Cry-Aria" from *Highway to Canaan*Dr. J LanYé
 "Minstrel Man" from *Three Dream Portraits*Margaret Bonds

Jessica Johnson, mezzo-soprano

An Sylvia, D. 891Franz Schubert
 Chanson TristeHenri Duparc
 "E lucevan le stelle" from *Tosca*Giacomo Puccini
 "Joy" from *Genius Child*Ricky Ian Gordon

Lance Fisher, tenor

Heart, we will forget Him!Aaron Copland
 Gretchen am SpinnradeFranz Schubert
 Elle est gravement gaieLili Boulanger
 "Glitter and Be Gay" from *Candide*Leonard Bernstein

Sara Miller, soprano

MUSICAL THEATRE CATEGORY

"And This Is My Beloved" from *Kismet*Robert Wright & George Forrest

"Everything Else" from *Next to Normal*Tom Kitt & Brian Yorkey

"Maybe I Like It This Way" from *The Wild Party*Andrew Lipppa

Michelina DeVeas, soprano

"How Could I Ever Know" from *The Secret Garden*Lucy Simon & Marsha Norman

"Before It's Over" from *Dogfight*Benj Pasek & Justin Paul

"Live Out Loud" from *A Little Princess*Andrew Lipppa

"A Cockeyed Optimist" from *South Pacific*Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II

Emely Martin, Soprano

"A New Town Is a Blue Town" from *The Pajama Game*Richard Adler & Jerry Ross

"Kiss of the Spiderwoman" from *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*John Kander & Fred Ebb

"Way Ahead of My Time" (The Caveman Song) from *The Taxi Cabaret*Peter Mills

"Settle for Me" from *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*Bloom, Schlesinger & Dolgen

Lance Fisher, tenor



- "Cute Boys with Short Hair Cuts" from *Vanities*David Kirshenbaum
- "A Little Bit in Love" from *Wonderful Town*Leonard Bernstein
- "Nothing Short of Wonderful" from *Dogfight*Benj Pasek & Justin Paul
- "Adele's Laughing Song" from *Die Fledermaus*Johann Strauss II

Olivia Davidson, soprano

- "Feelings" from *The Apple Tree*Jerry Bock & Sheldon Harnick
- "Not A Day Goes By" from *Merrily We Roll Along*Stephen Sondheim
- "Safer" from *First Date*Alan Zachary & Michael Weiner
- "I Don't Know How to Love Him" from *Jesus Christ Superstar*Andrew Lloyd Webber

Gianna Pesaniello, soprano

- "Go the Distance" from *Hercules*Alan Menken
- "I'm Not Wearing Underwear Today" from *Avenue Q*Robert Lopez & Jeff Marx
- "I Can't Stand Still" from *Footloose*Dean Pitchford & Tom Snow
- "Fathers and Sons" from *Working*Stephen Schwartz

Patrick Gover, baritone

- "Beautiful" from *It Shoulda Been You*Barbara Anselmi
- "My Man" from *Ziegfeld Follies*Maurice Yvain
- "Something Wonderful" from *The King and I*Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II
- "Glitter and Be Gay" from *Candide*Leonard Bernstein

Sara Miller, soprano

- "Lost in the Wilderness" from *Children of Eden*Stephen Schwartz
- "King of the World" from *Songs for a New World*Jason Robert Brown
- "I'm Alive" from *Next to Normal*Brian Yorkey
- "There's a Boat Dat's Leavin' Soon" from *Porgy and Bess*George & Ira Gershwin

Jeremiah Copeland, tenor



MUSICIAN BIOGRAPHIES

Jeremiah Copeland, tenor, is a native of Salisbury, MD. A senior pursuing degrees in music and theatre, he is the 2018 1st Place and 2019 2nd Place winner of the MD-DC NATS Student Auditions (Sophomore and Junior Men's Musical Theater categories). During his time at SU, he has played the roles of Nick Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Seaweed in *Hairspray* and, most recently, Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Jeremiah was runner-up and winner of a \$500 Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship awarded at the Kennedy Center America College Theatre Festival in 2018. He also received the award for Vocal Excellence given by the Voice and Speech Trainers Association.

Olivia Davidson, soprano, is a junior music - vocal performance major at SU. She has participated in various community theatre productions, playing the roles of Eponine in *Les Misérables* and Florinda in *Into the Woods*. In her debut SU production, Olivia played the roles of Soul Girl/Apostle in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She portrayed the role of Cathy in the Community Players of Salisbury's production of *The Last Five Years*. Olivia is 2nd Place winner of the 2019 MD-DC NATS Student Auditions (Sophomore Women's Musical Theatre).

Joshua Dennis, tenor, is a junior music - education major at Salisbury University. He recently portrayed the role of Annas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. A native of Salisbury, MD, he received 1st Place at the 2019 MD-DC NATS Student Auditions (Sophomore Men's Musical Theater).

Micheline DeVeas, soprano, made her first stage appearance at SU in the production of *Hairspray*. Prior to Salisbury, she attended Carver Center for the Arts and Technology for dance and is currently a junior majoring in music and theatre.

Lance Fisher, tenor, is a senior vocal performance major at Salisbury University. Hailing from Princess Anne, MD, Lance is active in the local acappella and barbershop quartet scenes as an arranger, director and performer. He is the 2019 1st Place winner of the MD-DC NATS Student Auditions and the Mid-Atlantic Regional 2nd Place winner (Senior Men's Musical Theater). Lance played the title role in *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

William M. Folger, professor of music, appointed to the Salisbury University Music Program faculty in 2003 is in demand as a guest conductor, collaborative pianist, clinician and adjudicator throughout the region. Having recently completed his duties as co-chair of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, he teaches conducting, and, as director of choral activities, he conducts the University Chorale, Salisbury Chorale, Chamber Choir, and musical theatre and opera productions. Dr. Folger has performed with the Bel Canto Company, Inc., a professional vocal ensemble based in North Carolina. Recently, Folger was invited to conduct at Carnegie Hall, New York City for a future performance. His recent musical director credits at SU include the musicals *Hairspray*, *Cabaret*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and the opera *The Old Maid and the Thief*. This spring, he is music director for the musical *Hair* and will conduct the Chorale on a tour of Italy. By invitation, he directed the High School Honors Choir in Charles County, MD, the All-Shore High School Chorus in Easton, and the Worcester County Senior High Chorus. Dr. Folger earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in conducting from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG).

Patrick Gover, baritone, made his first vocal appearances at SU on an American Spiritual Ensemble Master Class and in the French program *La Bonne Cuisine*. A member of the SU Dance Ensemble, Patrick is a senior double majoring in music and theatre and hails from Clarksville, MD. He is the 2019 MD-DC NATS Student Auditions 1st Place winner and 4th Place Mid-Atlantic Regional winner (Junior Men's Musical Theatre). He portrayed the role of Caiaphas in the December 2018 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Jessica Johnson, soprano, is a third-year music - education major at Salisbury University. A native of Baltimore, she received Honors at the 2018 MD-DC NATS Student Auditions. Jessica played the role of Apostle in the December '18 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Kadie Laramore, soprano, is a sophomore majoring in music education. During her high school years, she played the roles of Fantine in *Les Misérables* and the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods* and was selected for All-State Chorus three times. Kadie was an Apostle in the fall production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and received Honors at the 2019 MD-DC NATS Students Auditions.

Emely Martin, soprano, is a senior music - education major at Salisbury University and is currently serving her internship. A native of the Eastern Shore, she has performed the role Fiona in *Shrek the Musical*, Cinderella in *Cinderella* and is a frequent church soloist. At SU, she has participated in the Singers' Showcase since her freshman year and is an active member of the University Chorale and Gospel Choir.

Kate McLoughlin, soprano, is a freshman at Salisbury University. She is pursuing degrees in both music and psychology in hopes of a future career as a music therapist. Here at SU, she has been seen in the *400 Years of Human Resilience Singers' Showcase* and as a soloist in *A Grand Night for Singing*. Kate is an active member of the University Chorale and is excited to continue her studies at SU.

Sara Miller, soprano, transferred to SU in 2017. She is a junior majoring in music - education. A Salisbury native, Sara was an Apostle in the 2018 production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, recently performed on the Feature Friday Recital Series at the Brick Room downtown and will perform in the upcoming musical *Hair*. She won 1st Place at the 2019 MD-DC NATS Student Auditions (Senior Women's Classical) held at Morgan State University.

Gianna Pesaniello, soprano, is a third-year interdisciplinary studies major at Salisbury University with interests in music, theatre and media production. Gianna is the 1st Place winner of the 2018 MD-DC NATS Students Auditions (Sophomore Women's Musical Theater) and recently played the roles of Penny Pingleton and Mary Magdalene in the SU productions of *Hairspray* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She is from Snow Hill, MD.

Veronica Tomanek, pianist, is staff pianist/coach for the Wright voice studio in the Department of Music, Theater, and Dance at Salisbury University. She also serves as the music director at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Salisbury. Veronica has taught at the University of Connecticut, Wesleyan University and Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ. She frequently performs throughout the Mid-Atlantic and New England as a chamber musician, piano and organ soloist, choral director, music director for musical theater productions, and accompanist. She held the post of principal pianist/keyboardist with the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra for 16 years. She also has performed with the United States Coast Guard Band and Chamber Players, the Silver Bay Quartet, and with many other instrumentalists, vocalists and choral groups. She has a Master of Music in piano performance from the University of Connecticut and a diploma in piano performance from the Rouen Conservatory, Rouen, France. She lives in Salisbury, MD.

Soprano **Jennifer Hope Wills** currently serves as professor of the practice in music at Salisbury University. She comes to us directly from New York City where she spent nearly four years starring as Christine in Broadway's longest running musical, *The Phantom of the Opera*, performing the role nearly 1,000 times. Other Broadway credits include her critically acclaimed portrayal of Eileen in *Wonderful Town* opposite Brooke Shields (New Cast Recording), *The Woman in White* and *Beauty & the Beast*. Off Broadway, she appeared as Della in *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* at City Center's Encores!. In New York City, Wills has sung in concert at Town Hall, Lincoln Center (Merkin Concert Hall), City Center, Birdland and Joe's Pub, and she has appeared in many readings and developments of new musicals. Across the United States, she has headlined with the Portland, Houston, Omaha, North Carolina, Austin, Milwaukee, Roanoke, Grand Junction and Bay Atlantic symphonies. Originally from Ocean City, MD, she holds a degree in music - education from Salisbury University and a master's in vocal performance from Indiana University. Prior to her homecoming, she served as an assistant adjunct professor at Hofstra University in New York and as adjunct instructor at Brevard College in North Carolina and Luther College in Decorah, IA.

Tenor **John Wesley Wright** holds degrees from Maryville College and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where he earned the M.M. and D.M.A. in performance studies. A native of Rome, GA, he works as associate professor of music at Salisbury University (Salisbury, MD), coordinating the voice and opera programs, and producing special singer showcases such as *From Ship to Shore: 400 Years of Human Resilience Through Music*, a program recognizing 400 years of slavery in North America. An active clinician and leader of workshops on voice production, interpretation and African American song tradition, he also co-directed the musical theatre program at the Maryland Summer Center of the Arts (2007-2014). He performs solo repertoire ranging from baroque to Broadway throughout the world, including as a member of the internationally celebrated American Spiritual Ensemble. Acclaim also has come as gold medalist of the American Traditions Vocal Competition 2000, with other top prizes from the National Federation of Music Clubs, the Metropolitan Opera National Council and the International Schubert Competition. His doctoral dissertation (2014) studies musical borrowings underlying the role of the Celebrant in Bernstein's *Mass*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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John Raley, *Co-Chair, Department of Music, Theatre and Dance*

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Brooke Church, *Department of Music, Theatre and Dance*

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