Montclair State University
JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC
PRESENTS

THE 2026 INVITATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHORALFEST

CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 2026
8AM - 3PM
ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER

Daniel Gurskis
Dean, College of the Arts

Shea Scruggs
Director
John J. Cali School of Music

John J. Cali
School of Music
MONTCLAIR
STATE UNIVERSITY

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Time	Activity - Faculty/Staff/Students	Venues
7:45 – 8:15 am	1. **HS Choirs arrive** - MSU Student Ambassadors greet & escort choirs to Kasser; adjudication scores given to GA/TA for distribution to choral & voice faculty	Chapin Drive (Buses may park in Lot 60)
	2. **Registration** – name badges/tags & welcome folders for HS students & teachers via MSU Ambassadors	Lobby
	3. **Choirs seated in house** – per Ambassador directions	Assigned Kasser House Seats
8:10 – 8:20	• **HS Choir #1 (Paramus)** to Green Room for warm-up	Green Room
8:20	• Paramus HS move onstage & remain onstage during *Welcome*	Stage left wing & stage
8:25	• **Welcome! [Dr. Heather J. Buchanan]**	Kasser Stage
8:30 – 11:10	• **High School Performances + onstage Choral Clinic** o **Kasser performance schedule** 1. **8:30 – 8:50 Choir #1** – Paramus 2. **8:53 – 9:13 Choir #2** – Elmwood Park 3. **9:16 – 9:36 Choir #3** – Bridgewater-Raritan 4. **9:39 – 9:59 Choir #4** – Perth Amboy 5. **10:02 – 10:22 Choir #5** – Columbia 6. **10:25 – 10:45 Choir #6** – Roxbury 7. **10:48 – 11:08 Choir #7** – Allentown	Stage *Note re HS choir movement from house seats to green room, to stage, and back to seats:* • Move to green room at end of previous choirs performance; enter stage from SL • Exit SR and return directly to house seats from stage as next choir moves onto risers. Attire change during lunch.
11:20-11:50	• ***Art Songs and Arias*, Gregory A. Stout, *accompanist*** Solo Vocal Performances hosted by Dr. Lori McCann *(All participating HS receive a copy of this concert.)*	Stage
12- 12:35 pm*	• **Lunch** i) Student/Chaperones BYO & eat in Amphitheatre ii) HS conductors + MSU faculty in Cole Hall 141 • *HS students may change out of formal attire during lunch break*	Amphitheatre **(*Wet weather venues TBA)* Cole Hall141 (faculty + HS Conductors)
12:35 – 12:45	**Move to Vocal Technique Workshop venues**	In Transit
1.	Kasser Theater Stage – Allentown + Roxbury	
2.	Kasser Theater 104 – BRHS + Elmwood Park	(*MSU Ambassadors* show HS
3.	Leshowitz Recital Hall (Chapin Hall) – Perth Amboy + Wallington	choirs & chaperones to their
4.	Freeman 003 – Columbia	workshop venue)
5.	Kasser Theater Lobby – Paramus	
12:45 – 1:30	**Vocal Technique Workshop**	Kasser Theatre
1.	Kasser Theater Stage – Dr. Lori McCann (Allentown + Roxbury)	• Stage
2.	Kasser Theater 104 – Dr. Peter Gillis (BRHS + Elmwood Park)	• 104
3.	Leshowitz Recital Hall (Chapin Hall) – Dr. Darian Clonts (Perth Amboy + Wallington)	• Lobby Chapin Hall
4.	Freeman 003 – Prof. George Spitzer (Columbia)	• Leshowitz
5.	Kasser Theater Lobby – Prof. Anastasia Swope (Paramus)	Freeman 003
1:35 – 1:40	**Return to assigned seats in Kasser Theater**	• In Transit + Stage
1:45 – 2:45 pm	**CONCERT**: • Vocal Accord • University Singers • University Singers + Wind Symphony “Vincent’s Sky”	Kasser Stage
2:45 – 3:15 pm	• **Depart campus** – *MSU Student Ambassadors* escort choirs to campus Red Hawk Deck bus stop departure point.	College Ave/Chapin Drive (per police instructions)

HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR PERFORMANCES

Paramus High School

Mr. Jack Rifkin, *conductor*

The Lady in the Water — Eric William Barnum
Mata Del Anima Sola — Antonio Estevez

Luciano Guidetti*, soloist*

Elmwood Park Memorial High School

Ms. Amelia Makus, *conductor*
James Pettagano, *student accompanist*

Ad Astra (To the Stars…) — Jacob Narverud

Bridgewater-Raritan High School

Ms. Lisa Rotondi, *conductor*
Christopher Fortin, *accompanist*

Soon We Will Be Done — Kyle Pederson
Unclouded Day — Shawn Kirchner

Perth Amboy High School

Mr. Jeffrey Pando, *conductor*
Ian Howells*, accompanist*

Eloyi — arr. Mbuso Ndlovu & Sydney Masetlhen

Shantal Estevez, *soloist*
Cali Pathways student

The Thunderstorm — Laura Farnell

Columbia High School

Mr. Nicholas Diaz, *conductor*

Mama Said — Ruthie Foster arr. Paul Rardin
The Dark Eyed Sailor — arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR PERFORMANCES *(cont.)*

Roxbury High School
Mr. Patrick Hachey, *conductor*
Krista Sweer, *accompanist*

Exsultate justi — Lodovico da Viadana
Hine Ma Tov — Rob Dietz

Allentown High School
Ms. Megan Wolff, *conductor*
Julie Markavitch-Caudle, *accompanist*

Brennan Bailey, *soloist*

Spirituals — Gwyneth Walker
The Moon is Distant from the Sea — David Childs

PARTICIPATING CHORALFEST 2026 HIGH SCHOOLS

Allentown High School
Ms. Megan Wolff, *conductor**
Julie Markavitch-Caudle, *accompanist*

Bridgewater-Raritan High School
Mrs. Lisa Rotondi, *conductor*
Christopher Fortin, *accompanist*

Columbia High School
Mr. Nicholas Diaz, *conductor*

Elmwood Park Memorial High School
Ms. Amelia Makus, *conductor*
James Pettagano*, student accompanist*

Paramus High School
Mr. Jack Rifkin, *conductor*

Perth Amboy High School
Mr. Jeffrey Pando, *conductor**
Ian Howells, *accompanist**

Roxbury High School
Mr. Patrick Hachey, *conductor*
Krista Sweer, *accompanist*

Wallington Jr/Sr High School
Mr. Michael Rivera, *conductor* *

* MSU Alumni

Cali
CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Social Media Information

Cali School: @Montclair_Cali
@John J. Cali School of Music

Choral Activities: @MontclairChoral
@Montclair State Choral Activities
@Montclair.Choral

ART SONGS AND ARIAS

Gregory Stout, *accompanist*

"In Uomini, in Soldati" from *Cosi Fan Tutte* — **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

Anna Kodak, *soprano*
Student of Prof. Karen Driscoll

It Was a Lover and His Lass — **Gerald Finzi**

Mason Insana, *baritone*
Student of Prof. Jeffrey Gall

Sakura Yokochō — **Yoshinao Nakada**

Karina Kilbashian, *mezzo-soprano*
Student of Prof. Barbara Dever

Mein! — **Franz Schubert**

Damon Dellanno, *tenor*
Student of Dr. Peter Gillis

Beau Soir — **Claude Debussy**

Sephora Santiago, *soprano*
Student of Dr. Darian Clonts

Bee! I'm Expecting You! — **John Duke**

Taryn Spoto, *soprano*
Student of Prof. Karen Driscoll

"Romanza de Jose Inocente" from *Maria La O* — **Ernesto Lecuona**

Yadiel Rivera-Colon, *baritone*
Student of Prof. George Spitzer

O Sole Mio — **Eduardo di Capua**

Léah Laguerre, *soprano*
Student of Dr. Lori McCann

"The I Love You Song" from *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* — **William Finn**

Gabrielle Cintrón, *mezzo-soprano*
Student of Dr. Lori McCann

Anna Kodak, *soprano*
Student of Prof. Karen Driscoll

Benjamin Silvesti, *baritone*
Student of Prof. Jeffrey Gall

RESONANCE: THE MUSIC WITHIN

Dr. Heather J. Buchanan, *conductor*
Gregory Stout, *accompanist*

VOCAL ACCORD

The Language of the Stars **Katerina Gimon**

Poem by Martha Lavinia Hoffman (1865-1900)

Anna Kodak & Brianna Coppolino, *sopranos*

A Ceremony of Carols **Benjamin Britten**

3. There is no Rose
6. This little Babe

Since I Laid My Burden Down **arr. Kyle Pederson**

Gospel/blues groove

Kathryn Radcliffe, Brianna Coppolino, Ben Silvesti, Dean Tarriff, *soloists*

UNIVERSITY SINGERS

Today **Lucy Walker**

Poem by Ozioma Ogbaji

The Music of Stillness **Elaine Hagenberg**

Poem: *There Will Be Rest* (Sara Teasdale 1884-1933)

Signs of the Judgement **(Judgement Day)** **arr. Mark Butler**

Spiritual

Pseudo-Yoik **Jaakko Mäntyjärvi**

UNIVERSITY SINGERS & WIND SYMPHONY

Dr. Thomas McCauley, *conductor*

Vincent's Sky (2025) **Jake Runestad**

I. Olive Trees
II. Wheatfield with Crowd
III. The Starry Night

Open Dress Rehearsal for NJ Premiere Performances

The composer's attempt to capture Vincent Van Gogh's emotional state surrounding three of his paintings, influenced by the words of Walt Whitman. "Olive Trees" – sunlight, color and joy; "Wheatfield with Crows" – beauty overtaken by turmoil; "The Starry Night"– swirling darkness and hopeful stars

VOCAL ACCORD

Dr. Heather J. Buchanan, *conductor*
Gregory Stout, *accompanist*

Soprano I
Megan Huber
Sabina Kunze
Negin Saidian
Paige Stewart

Soprano II
Ava DeFebbo
Jenna Ferrera*
Amanda Guach
Anna Kodak+
Deborah Myhren

Alto I
Elinet Brito
Brianna Coppolino
Melanie Gilbert
Karina Kilbashian
Kathryn Radcliffe*

Alto II
Gabrielle Cintrón^
Jelena Diaz
Taylor Kitzman
Emily Piccola
Olivia Willms

Tenor I
Samuel Sanchez
Xavier Pesante

Tenor II
Damon Dellanno
Jayson Greengold
Gordon Rowan
Benjamin Silvesti*

High Baritone
Luis Grados
Mason Insana
Dean Tarriff*

Bass Baritone
Ryan Avallone
Alan Pinzon
Matteo Barahona

^ - Graduate Assistant ^^ - Teaching Assistant * -Section Leader + - Manager

PLEASE JOIN US ON NOVEMBER 1ST AT 3PM FOR OUR FALL CONCERT.

Featuring Alumna Soloist **MEAGAN HOOGERHYDE** ('20).

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE BOX OFFICE. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE PERFORMER BIOS & TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

UNIVERSITY SINGERS

Dr. Heather J. Buchanan, conductor
Gregory A. Stout, accompanist

Soprano I

Makayla Albert (Music Education – Voice)
Emily Cugini (Music Education – Voice)
Megan Huber (General Education)
Helen Makus (Child Advocacy)
Crystal Maoga (Music Education – Voice)
Olivia Meyer (Journalism)
Mckenzie Miller (Music Therapy – Voice)
Hailey Morin (Music Therapy – Voice)
Negin Saidian (Music Education – Voice)
Ava Tirri (Music Education – Voice)

Alto I

Elinet Brito (Music Education – Voice)
Melanie Gilbert (Music Education – Voice)
Emily Gramley (MM Music Composition)
Karina Kilbashian (Music Education – Voice)
Léah Laguerre (Music Performance – Voice)
Lara Miranda (Music Performance – Voice)
Kathryn Radcliffe * (Music Education – Voice)
Jasmin Ramos (Music Education – Voice)
Sephora Santiago (Music Performance – Voice)
Leah Schwing-Krompholz (Marine Biology)
Olivia Willms (Psychology)

Tenor I

Milo Berntsen (Music Composition)
Eddie Morel (Music Performance – Voice)
Xavier Pesante (Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies)
Samuel Sanchez (Music Composition)
Charlie Valdez (Music Education – Voice)
Jamie Yermish (Jurisprudence, Law, and Society)

High Baritone

Brian Corona (Music Education – Voice)
Raymond Del Gaudio (Music Therapy – Voice)
Luis Grados (Recording Arts + Production)
Mason Insana (Music Education – Voice)
Greyson Lobb (Music Education – Voice)
Jackson Miller (Music Performance – Voice)
Yadiel Rivera-Colon (Music Performance – Voice)
Dean Tarriff * (Music Education – Voice)
Christopher Vasquez (Music Performance – Jazz Voice)

Soprano II

Ava DeFebbo (Film + TV)
Jenna Ferrera * (Music Performance – Voice)
Drew Hinz (Music Education – Flute)
Anna Kodak + (Music Education – Voice)
Deborah Myhren (Music Education – Voice)
Camille Pajonas (Music Education – Voice)
Olivia Pellizzon (Music Education – Voice)
Brooks Seibold (Music Education – Voice)
Aizhan Soltanova (Music Performance – Piano)
Taryn Spoto (Music Education – Voice)

Alto II

Alexandra Amiths (Music Education – Voice)
Anamika Bachoo (Music Education – Voice)
Gabrielle Cintrón ^ (MM Choral Conducting)
Elena Cuesta^^ (MAT Music Education)
Jelena Diaz (MM Music Therapy – Voice)
Taylor Kitzman (Music Education - Voice)
Emily Piccola (Anthropology + Sec. Education)
Layla Santos (Undecided)

Tenor II

Donnie Chenel (Music Education – Piano)
Damon Dellanno (Music Education – Voice)
Felipe Espinosa (Music Performance – Voice)
Atlas Planas-Borgstrom (Music Therapy – Voice)
Gordon Rowan (MS Mathematics)
Benjamin Silvesti * (Music Education – Voice)

Bass –Baritone

Ryan Avallone (MS Mathematics)
Matteo Barahona (Music Education – Voice)
Darren Butler (Music Performance – Bassoon)
Jake McCreery (Theater Studies)
Amir Nassar (Music Performance – Jazz Bass)
Alan Pinzon (Music Performance – Voice)
Ezra Snyder (Music Therapy – Guitar)
Michael Vespignani (Music Education – Voice)

^ - Graduate Assistant ^^ - Teaching Assistant
*** - Section Leader + - Manager**

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY WIND SYMPHONY

Dr. Thomas McCauley, *conductor*

Flute
Julianna Taveras-Garcia (Music Performance)
Jules Zeajoya (Music Education)
Milo Berntsen (Composition)

Bassoon
Jonathan Hart (Multiple Woodwinds)
Darren Butler (Music Performance)

Bass Clarinet
Naji Abdeldayem (Music Education)

Alto Saxophone
Noah Barr (Multiple Woodwinds)
Frank DiBari (Music Performance)

Baritone Saxophone
Ariana Giammanco (Music Education)

Trumpet
Mario Correa (Music Performance)
Christopher Bailey-Robinson (Music Performance)
Gianna Ciaburri (Music Performance)

Bass Trombone
Hairo Cesar (Jazz Education)

Tuba
Isaac Galang (Music Education)

Oboe
Iva Verba (Music Performance)
Bailey Coon (Multiple Woodwinds)

Clarinet
Emily O'Brien (Multiple Woodwinds)
Quinton Benner (Music Performance)
Hailey Guerra (Multiple Woodwinds)
Amanda Haussmann (Multiple Woodwinds)
Nick Derderian (Multiple Woodwinds)
Hunter McDonald (Multiple Woodwinds

Tenor Saxophone
Katie Sorrentino (Music Education)

French Horn
Ellyn Eivers (Music Performance)
Jose Zapata (Music Performance)
Shayla Mcphee (Music Education)
Faith Santana (Music Education)

Trombone
David Laird (Music Education)
Marin Cowell (Music Performance)

Euphonium
James Quinn (Composition)

Double Bass
Sydni Fields, (Music Performance)

Percussion

Hannah D'Elia (Music Education)
Fenglin Zhang (Music Education)
Alexandros Pothos (Music Education)
Owen Lenger (Music Performance)
Elena Cuesta (MAT P-12 Music)
Logan Mather (Music Education)
Daniel Giermanski (Music Education)
Metehan Karaaslan (Music Education)

PARTICIPATING FACULTY

Dr. Heather J. Buchanan
Professor of Music & Director of Choral Activities

Dr. Darian Clonts
Visiting Specialist Voice

Prof. Karen Driscoll
Teaching Professor Voice &
Head of Artistic Operations, Opera

Dr. Peter Gillis
Visiting Specialist Voice

Dr. Lori McCann
Associate Professor of Voice &
Voice Program Coordinator

Prof. Deborah Mello
Visiting Specialist Music Education

Prof. George Spitzer
Visiting Specialist Voice

Mr. Greg Stout
MSU Choral Accompanist

Prof. Anastasia Swope
Visiting Specialist Voice

Prof. Seth Velez
Assistant Conductor MSU Chorale &
Visiting Specialist Theory/Aural Skills

MSU CHORALFEST STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Gabrielle Cintrón
ChoralFest Manager &
Choral Activities Graduate Assistant

Elena Cuesta
Choral Activities Teaching Assistant

Anamika Bachoo
Matteo Barahona
Milo Berntsen
Elinet Brito
Emily Cugini
Damon Dellanno
Jelena Diaz
Mason Insana
Karina Kilbashian
Anna Kodak
Léah Laguerre
Helen Makus
Lara Miranda
Melina Ortiz
Xavier Pesante
Sephora Santiago
Charlie Valdez
Michael Vespiganani

VOCAL COACHES

Michael Caldwell
Peiwen Chen
Mike Gaertner
William Hobbs
Mory Ortman
LeAnn Overton
Mary Pinto
Victoria Schwartzman
Grant Wenaus

VOICE FACULTY

Danielle Amedeo
Jonathan Beyer
Dr. Darian Clonts
Barbara Dever
Karen Driscoll
Jeffrey Gall
Anya Fidelia
Dr. Peter Gillis
Maya Lahyani
Dr. Lori McCann
Dr. Jan Prokop
Beth Roberts
Dr. Julia Rolwing
Mary Saunders-Barton
Ereni Sevasti
Matthew Smith
George Spitzer
Peter Stewart
Anastasia Swope
Peter Van Derick
Valerie Van Hoven
Helena Waterous

UPCOMING CHORAL AND OPERA PERFORMANCES

Choral Fall Concert
University Singers + Vocal Accord + Maegan Hoogerhyde (‘20) **+ Wind Symphony**
Sunday, November 1, 2026 @ 3pm
Alexander Kasser Theater

Choral Winter Concert
University Singers + Vocal Accord + Chorale
Saturday, December 5, 2026 @ 8pm
Alexander Kasser Theater

MSU Chamber Opera
L’enfant et les sortilèges
Sunday, December 7, 2025 @ 5 & 7:30pm
Karen Driscoll, *director;* **William Hobbs,** *conductor*
Alexander Kasser Theater

Messiah
University Singers + New Jersey Symphony
Friday, December 18, 2026 @ 7:30pm - Richardson Auditorium, Princeton
Saturday, December 19, 2026 @ 7:30pm – Alexander Kasser Theater, Montclair
presented by Montclair State Arts & Cultural Programming – tickets from University Box Office.
Sunday, December 20, 2026 @ 7pm – Cathedral Basilica, Newark

Use Discount Code MONTCLAIR35 for 35% discount
applies only to Dec 18 and 20 performances presented by NJS.

Mainstage Opera
Falstaff
Saturday, January 30, 2026 @ 7:30pm
Sunday, January 31, 2026 @ 3pm
Andrew Chown, *director;* **Kyle Ritenaur,** *conductor*
Alexander Kasser Theater

Choral Showcase *#Inspired!*
Jake Runestad*, guest conductor*
University Singers + Vocal Accord
Mt. Olive HS: Mr. Matthew Vanzini*, director*
The Celia Cruz Bronx HS of Music: Ms. Jacqueline Bergland, *director*
Saturday, February 27, 2026 @ 8pm
Alexander Kasser Theater

Cali Large Ensembles Gala Concert
Featuring: Wind Symphony, University Singers, Jazz Ensemble + Symphony Orchestra
Presenting the world premiere of our Jake Runestad choral commission
Saturday, March 20, 2026 @ 7pm
Prudential Hall, NJPAC

Off-Campus Choral Concert
University Singers + Vocal Accord
Saturday, April 10, 2026 @ 4pm
Saint Peter’s Church - Manhattan, NY
Alexander Kasser Theater

UPCOMING CHORAL AND OPERA PERFORMANCES *(cont.)*

Poulenc Gloria + Ravel Daphnis and Chloé Suite No.2
Chorale + New Jersey Symphony
Thursday, April 15, 2027 @ 1:30pm – Prudential Hall, NJPAC
Saturday, April 17, 2027 @ 7:30pm – Prudential Hall, NJPAC
Sunday, April 18, 2027 @ 2pm – State Theater, New Brunswick
Ludovic Morlot, *conductor*

Use Discount Code MONTCLAIR35 for 35% discount

MSU Spring Concert
University Singers + Vocal Accord + Symphony Orchestra
Saturday, April 24, 2027 @ 8pm
Alexander Kasser Theater

Opera Scenes
Sunday, May 3, 2027 @ 5pm
Monday, May 4, 2027 @ 8pm
Van Fossan Theater, Bloomfield

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Marissa Silverman – *Vincent's Sky Program Notes*
Rob Davidson – *Videographer*

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY
JOHN J. CALI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

ADMINISTRATION & STAFF

Shea Scruggs, *Director*
Stephanie Haggerstone, *Associate Director*
Letitia Stancu, *Academic Administrator*
Michelle Klemme, *Academic Advisor*
Paula Chmiel, *Program Assistant*
Andy Dickerson, *Production Manager, Cali School of Music*
Taylor Goodson, *Assistant Production Manager & Scheduling Administrator*
Heather Kern, *Marketing & Outreach Manager*
Marla Meissner, *Recruitment Coordinator*
Linsay Setzer, *Audition Coordinator/Office Manager*