

University of Mississippi

eGrove

University of Mississippi News

3-22-2022

Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Chorus Team with UM Choirs for Concert

Edwin B. Smith

Follow this and additional works at: <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews>

Recommended Citation

Smith, Edwin B., "Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Chorus Team with UM Choirs for Concert" (2022).
University of Mississippi News. 3053.
<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews/3053>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Mississippi News by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Chorus Team with UM Choirs for Concert

Ford Center production features Beethoven's Ninth, 'Ode to Joy'

MARCH 22, 2022 BY EDWIN B. SMITH



University of Mississippi Choirs members will sing with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Memphis Symphony Chorus for a production of Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' on March 25 at the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts. Thomas Graning/Ole Miss Digital Imaging Services

OXFORD, Miss. – An elegant evening of classical music awaits Friday (March 25) at the **University of Mississippi's Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts**.

The **UM Choirs**, under the direction of Donald Trott and Elizabeth Hearn, will join with the **Memphis Symphony Orchestra** and Memphis Symphony Chorus to perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, Op. 125 ("Ode to Joy"). Michael Markowski's composition "Joyride" will open the program.

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, which range from \$20 to \$30 each, are available through the UM Box Office. To buy tickets, click [here](#).

"The Beethoven Ninth Symphony has become the world anthem of hope for humanity and provides the perfect celebration and healing for these times," said Julia Aubrey, Ford Center director. "Robert Moody commissioned celebrated composer Michael Markowski to rearrange his composition 'Joyride' in 2012 – a perfect pairing with the Ninth."

Moody, conductor of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, said Markowski's composition is a perfect leadoff to Beethoven's Ninth.

"The piece is stunning, with a jubilant, youthful spirit, beautifully blended with Markowski's talent for creating imagery with sound," Moody noted on the orchestra's website.

Beethoven's Ninth is a celebrated piece, the first symphony to incorporate vocalists and also one of the longest symphonies ever written. The main body, which has become widely known through its use in various media, is centered around the text of Friedrich von Schiller's "An die Freude," perhaps better known as "Ode to Joy."

The vocals will be provided by both the UM Choirs and the Memphis Symphony Chorus, directed by Lawrence Edwards. Featured vocalists are Laquita Mitchell, soprano; Taylor Raven, alto; Limmie Pulliam, tenor; and Joshua Conyers, baritone.

Markowski originally wrote "Joyride" in 2005, when he was a high school student in Mesa, Arizona.

"Our symphonic band had been invited to play at Carnegie Hall in New York City, and my band director,

Follow us on social



Campus Briefs

Donations Sought for 25th Annual Books and Bears Program

OXFORD, Miss. – The University of Mississippi is asking the community to help spread a little joy this holiday season by donating to the 25th annual Books and Bears program. Donations such as toys, books, dolls, bicycles and other children's play items are being accepted through Dec. 14. All donations will be collected and sorted

[Read the story ...](#)

More Posts from this Category

Thank You To Our Donors

Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship Aims to Build Leaders

OXFORD, Miss. – Twenty-five inaugural recipients of the Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship – a program hosted by the University of Mississippi School of Education in partnership with the Mississippi Association of Coaches and the Mississippi High School Activities Association – are expected to increase their impact on student-athletes and their communities. The coaching fellowship

[Read the story ...](#)

More Posts from this Category

Ole Miss In the News

Clarion-Ledger: New Essay Collection Tells the Story of Meredith's Enrollment

Essays celebrate 60th anniversary of James Meredith's enrollment at University of Mississippi By Lauren Rhoades Oct. 1 marks the 60th anniversary of James Meredith's 1962 enrollment at the University of Mississippi as the school's first African-American student.

Jon Gomez, proposed the idea of writing a short celebratory work to commemorate the occasion,” the composer recounted on his [website](#). “As I remember it, he said, ‘It would be cool to blend something joyful, something traditional – say, Beethoven’s ‘Ode to Joy’ – with something more contemporary – like John Adams’ ‘Short Ride in a Fast Machine.’”

Markowski completed a first draft of this classical mashup in just 10 days, and it has become a popular accompaniment to Beethoven’s Ninth.

Nancy Maria Balach, chair and professor of music, said she is thrilled that this collaboration is being supported and part of the university’s Artist Series.

“This experience enriches the artistic growth of the students who will be performing and the cultural growth of the Ole Miss students who will attend,” she said. “The level of music making will be exceptional and will be an evening that the LOU community will not want to miss.”



FILED UNDER: [DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, NEWS RELEASES](#)

“James Meredith: Breaking the Barrier,” a collection of essays edited by UM professor of journalism Kathleen Wickham, honors this historic milestone with

[Read the story ...](#)

[More Posts from this Category](#)