

COME AWAY TO THE SKIES



APRIL 23, 2026

7:00 PM

Orem Library Hall

58 N State Street, Orem UT

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GREETINGS

Alison Unsworth Artistic Director

I have long been drawn to the ballad, folk hymn, and song traditions brought by early Irish, Scotch-Irish, Welsh, and English settlers into the valleys of western Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Over time, these communities passed down their music and culture until it became woven into the fabric of the American South. This early folk tradition later helped shape bluegrass music—a style that grew in popularity in the 1940s—and one I’ve wanted to feature in a full choral program for many years.

Bluegrass music is undeniably fun, full of driving rhythms and lively energy. But it also holds onto the haunting beauty of close harmonies and storytelling that echo the hills and valleys of southern Appalachia—an area I was fortunate to call home for several years. In tonight’s program, you’ll hear both sides of that tradition, from the playful spirit of “Old Joe Clark” and “Rocky Top” to the tender, reflective beauty of “Shenandoah” and “Bright Morning Stars.”

One of the highlights of the evening is our performance of four movements from Wes Ramsey’s and Tim Sharp’s “Come Away to the Skies: A High Lonesome Mass.” This creative work reimagines the traditional structure of the High Mass through a bluegrass lens, blending simplicity, faith, and the rich folk traditions of this country.

We’re also thrilled to be joined by Utah’s premier traditional bluegrass band, Xavier Hay and the Beehive Boys, whose playing brings an added layer of authenticity and energy with bass fiddle, mandolin, banjo, fiddle, and guitar.

I hope tonight’s music leaves you feeling a sense of joy, hope, and the simple beauty found in these timeless tunes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Unsworth". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a thin horizontal line.

Alison Unsworth
Artistic Director, Wasatch Chorale

ABOUT THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Alison Unsworth has been involved in choral music her whole life. She earned her bachelor's degree in choral education from Brigham Young University and her master's degree in choral conducting from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina.

She has taught music in elementary, middle, and high schools, and has directed community adult and children's choirs in North Carolina and Utah. Alison is an active choral singer, having sung with the Durham Civic Choral Society, the Vocal Arts Ensemble, and the Duke University Collegium Musicum in North Carolina, as well as the Utah Chamber Artists, the Salt Lake Vocal Artists, and the Choir of the Cathedral of the Madeleine. Alison has toured throughout the United States, China, and Europe as a choral singer. She took Wasatch Chorale on tour to New York City for the Chorale's 50th anniversary in 2025.

For over thirty years she taught private piano, voice, and conducting lessons, and is a frequent accompanist. She was also the conductor of the Sterling Singers, a community choir based in the Salt Lake Valley, for eight years. Additionally, Alison is working on the new hymnbook project for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She and her husband, Andrew, have five children.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Special thanks to our generous sponsors whose support makes the Wasatch Chorale season possible. Your commitment helps us bring inspiring music, guest artists, and meaningful community experiences to our audiences. As we look ahead to our exciting 2026–2027 season, we invite individuals and businesses to contribute and become a part of our family. Go to wasatchchorale.org/donate for details. All donations are tax deductible as we are a 501(c)3.

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P R O G R A M M E

WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN

Arranged by David Moore

Welcome

SHENANDOAH

Arranged by James Erb

SHADY GROVE

Arranged by Robert I. Hugh

OLD JOE CLARK

Arranged by Dwight Bigler
Conducted by CJ Madsen

DOWN IN THE RIVER TO PRAY

by David L. Mennicke
Conducted by CJ Madsen

POOR WAYFARING STRANGER

Arranged by Keith Christopher, Soloist: Barton Busath
Conducted by CJ Madsen

ROCKY TOP (TBB)

Arranged by Kirby Shaw
Words and Music by Boudleaux Bryant and Felice Bryant
Soloists: Matthew Rayback, Brock Berger, Guy Briggs, Stephen Loper
Dancers: Brian Cox, Brady Davis, Ian Knight, Steve Wilson
Conducted by CJ Madsen

PERFORMANCE

Xavier Hay and the Beehive Boys

SUPPORT
THE CHOIR

MAY 2ND / 4:00-7:00

WASATCH CHORALE'S
GRAND PICNIC
BBQ FUNDRAISER

SMOKED TO PERFECTION BY PITMASTER LEE

Intermission

Treats are for sale in the lobby
All proceeds go toward next season's concerts

COME AWAY TO THE SKIES: A HIGH LONESOME MASS

by Wes Ramsay and Tim Sharp

INTROIT - COME AWAY TO THE SKIES

KYRIE - Do Lord, Remember Me

Soloist: Ian Knight

GLORIA - BRETHREN WE HAVE MET TO WORSHIP

SANCTUS - HAIL THE BLESSED MORN

Soloists: Stephen Loper, Matthew Rayback,
Brock Berger, Brian Cox

BRIGHT MORNING STARS

Arranged by Shawn Kirchner, Soloists: Geoff Griffin and Rachel Ricci

ANGEL BAND (SSA)

by William Bradbury, Arranged by Shawn Kirchner

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Arranged by Shawn Kirchner

Violin Soloist: Eva Rhodes

I'LL FLY AWAY

by Albert E. Brumley, Arranged by Craig Courtney

PROGRAMME

GREAT FOOD * GOOD COMPANY * OUTDOOR FUN

Enjoy award winning BBQ, win prizes (i.e. season tickets), mingle with the choir, and play yard games. Plates include pulled pork, roll, homemade coleslaw, and baked beans. Additional drinks and homemade desserts can be purchased at the event. Proceeds fund next year's concerts. Tickets are on sale tonight for \$17/plate.



WASATCH CHORALE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Alison Unsworth

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

CJ Madsen

SOPRANOS

Betsy Bailey
Becca Black
Brooke Buss
Amanda Elswick
Brigitte Espenschied
Heather Goodson
Jesse Griffin
Mary Gurr
Kelsey Hall
Beth Hamula
Carole Harrison
Janalee Hess
Crystal Magleby
Alyssa Nielsen
Abigail Olcott
Cherie Packer
Chevy Pease
Megan Perkins
Jayla Reed
Heather Robinson
Anna Salvania
*Rhonda Seiter
Lynn Stallard
Maryann Stevens
Keara Terry
JaRele Workman
Kimberly Yost

*Additional Percussion

ACCOMPANIST

Paul Kohler

ALTOS

Barbara Acheson
Lisa Barker
Gloria Butcher
Camille Campbell
Lisa Christensen
Beryl Clayton
Anna Davis
Michelle Forstrom
Krystal Foutz
Maury Giauque
Christine Gines
Lisa Hawkins
LeAnne Herdman
Melissa Hessing
Vicki Jenkins
Heather Johnson
Keri Kammerman
Kelli King Charles
Bonnie Lee
Becky Meng
Karen Newmeyer
Janet Olcott
Amy Palethorpe
Sonia Passeraub
Charlene Pelton
Rachel Ricci
Devanie Roberts
Cindy Stapleton
Julane Walker
Cheryl Walters

Digital Program



TENORS

Barton Busath
Nathan Christiansen
Brian Cox
Stan Dye
Steven Farrell
Penny Lee
Bob Lee
Stephen Loper
CJ Madsen
Matthew Rayback
Nina Whitehead
Daniel Wilcox
Steve Wilson

BASSES

Luke Baker
Brock Berger
Guy Briggs
Kevin Burnham
Todd Carpenter
Brent Creighton
Brady Davis
Larry Dunning
Clay Ellis
Geoff Griffin
Alan Hawkins
Ian Knight
Paul Meyers
Todd Montgomery
Vincent Newmeyer
John Nielsen
Brad Platt
Jared Platt
Richard Shorten
Charles Stewart
Clint Sudweeks
Ben Wake
Jonathan Westover



Xavier Hay & The Beehive Boys are one of Utah's premier traditional bluegrass ensembles, known for their energetic performances, tight harmonies, and virtuosic instrumental playing. Blending classic bluegrass traditions with lively dance tunes and heartfelt ballads, the group delivers an authentic Americana sound that captivates audiences of all ages. They perform regularly at festivals, community concerts, and special events throughout Utah and are excited to collaborate with the Wasatch Chorale for this special performance.

Band Members



Xavier Hay
(Banjo, Lead Vocals)



Luke Weaver
(Guitar)



Dr. Brandon Claridge
(Mandolin, Banjo)



Dr. Paul Mueller
(Bass, Fiddle, Mandolin)



Chantry Olsen
(Guitar)



Molly Chamberlain
(Fiddle)

Xavier and the Beehive Boys continue to perform throughout the region about twice a month. For a full calendar or to request the band for your next event, go to www.thebeehiveboys.com.

MEET THE BAND

UPCOMING EVENTS



Wasatch Chorale's GRAND PICNIC BBQ FUNDRAISER

Saturday, May 2, 2026
4:00-7:00 PM

Lindon City Center Park Pavillion
200 North State Street, Lindon, UT

Tickets: wasatchchorale.org/BBQ

Help support the choir and enjoy an afternoon of delicious BBQ, yard games, and community fun. Eat at the pavillion with family and friends and get to know the choir better—or grab your plate to go. Tickets include pulled pork, roll, homemade coleslaw, and baked beans and gives you a chance to win two (2) season tickets for next year. Purchase drinks and choir made desserts at the event.

TODAY ONLY—Tickets are reduced to \$17/plate



CELEBRATION OF HUMANITY Beethoven Symphony No 9

Thursday, May 21, 2026
7:30 PM

Noorda Concert Hall, Utah Valley University
800 W University Parkway, Orem, UT

Tickets: wasatchchorale.org/beethoven

Join the Utah Valley Symphony, Wasatch Chorale, and soloists Julia Gershkoff, Kirsten Chavez, Isaac Hurtado, and Seth Keeton for a powerful and uplifting evening ending with Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. This monumental work is a triumphant celebration of joy, unity, and the shared human spirit.

