

# Seaway Chorale & Orchestra

HAMILTON

Conducted by Anthony Lai M.M.

PRESENTS

# SEAWAY

ON STAGE

April 19th - 20th, 7:30 PM

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ROBERTS  
PLUMMER  
LEANDR PARKER  
BROWNE

BROADWAY  
THEATRE



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## **ANTHONY JOSEPH LAI**

### **MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR**

Anthony Joseph Lai is multi-faceted musician, Michigan native, proud uncle, and outspoken Millennial from the City of Dearborn. A composer, conductor, and singer-songwriter, he combines his experience in classical, jazz, and popular music to bring an eclectic style to the podium. He became the director of The Seaway Chorale and Orchestra in 2014.

Lai's musicianship first began as a years-long idolization and imitation of The Beatles and other music of the 1960s. His palette expanded

significantly when he attended Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn. There he discovered a love for classical music which led to a long path of study into music composition and the art of conducting. The school became his permanent musical home in March of 2024, when he was hired as the new head of the Music department.

Outside of the classroom, Lai's musical endeavors are diverse. He has performed as a vocalist, guitarist, bassist, percussionist, and conductor throughout Metro Detroit and abroad. His work has led to many collaborations with other accomplished musicians, including Luis Resto (co-producer for Eminem), Jenna Irene Ascitutto (American Idol finalist), Terry Brown (producer for Rush), and members of Lynyrd Skynyrd.

In addition to music performance, Lai is a writer of music in a variety of styles. Nominated as "Outstanding Classical Composer" in the Detroit Music Awards in 2017, 2015, 2014, and 2012, he has written music for concert halls, film, theatre, and television. His compositions and orchestrations have been performed by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Wayne State University Orchestra, Flux Quartet of New York, Sage Strings in Washington D.C., and the Boston New Music Initiative.

Lai earned an M.M. in conducting and a B.M. in composition from Wayne State University, and has continued his music studies at conducting symposiums at the New England Conservatory and University of Michigan. His musical style and taste can be heard in his 2021 album *Take Me With You*, where he combines his love of classical and choral music with his roots as a Beatles fan. Laced with woodwinds, strings, and plenty of vocal harmony, *Take Me With You* sums up his musical influences in an acoustic singer-songwriter package. His original music can be found anywhere you download or stream music.

# JEREMY ST. MARTIN

## Accompanist



Jeremy's past work has included accompanying/assistant directing for the Henry Ford College chorus, Dearborn Chorus, and the University of Michigan Dearborn's chamber choir. Jeremy has also had extensive work at the podium, conducting and vocal directing such groups as Sing Out Detroit, the award-winning vocal jazz ensemble, Metro Jazz Voices

as well as his own church choir at St. John's United Church of Christ. Jeremy is currently studying at the University of Detroit Mercy, working on his BA in Theatre Performance before moving to his MA in Musical Theatre Direction.



# Vanessa El-Zein

## Voices of the Young Director



Vanessa's passion for music began at a young age and has grown into a successful career as a music director and vocal coach. In 2015, she started her journey as a student music director at Crestwood High School, where she discovered her natural talent for directing music. After graduating, Vanessa pursued her dream of working with young performers and became the music director for Dearborn Youth Theatre.

Since joining Dearborn Youth Theatre, Vanessa has directed over 12 musicals for children and young adults, earning a reputation for her outstanding leadership and

guidance. Her ability to bring out the best in her performers has earned her the respect and admiration of her colleagues, and her dedication to her craft has made her an invaluable member of the theatre community.

In addition to her work as a music director, Vanessa is also a highly skilled vocal coach. She teaches privately, sharing her knowledge and expertise with students of all ages and skill levels. As she studies voice at Eastern Michigan University, Vanessa is constantly improving her own skills and staying up-to-date with the latest techniques and trends in the industry.

Vanessa's passion for music and commitment to excellence make her a highly sought-after music director and vocal coach. She is dedicated to helping young performers achieve their full potential and inspiring the next generation of musicians and music lovers.

Vanessa would like to extend a special thanks to her good friends and colleagues Rashid Baydoun, Martin Zsbosnik, Lisa Cronin, and Hailey Afran for their unwavering support and advocacy for the arts in their community. Their dedication to promoting and fostering a love of music and theatre has been an inspiration to Vanessa, and she is grateful for their continued friendship and collaboration.

# THE SEAWAY CHORALE

## Alto

Debbie Baron  
**Karen Best**  
Tammie Bodell  
Vickie Carroll  
Charlene Coulson  
Carol DeMario  
**Jennifer Dunn**  
**Colleen Herman\***  
Cindy Hewlett  
Callie Robillard  
Nannette Sauve  
*Leah Shults*  
**Claudia Simons**

## Soprano

Suanne Anderson  
*Lin Dishaw\**  
Megan Emond  
**Rosemary Freeman**  
**Katelyn Gorecki**  
Diane Hiddleson  
Cynthia King  
Cindy Loop  
Amanda Matthieu  
Joyce Mitchell  
Jackie Olsen  
Shannon Raymond  
Janine Rossman  
*Jeanne Rushman*  
Sadie Saunders  
Janel Turner  
Theresa Walker  
Sabrina Wright

## Tenor

*Pat Hanks*  
Paul Hanks  
*John McKinney*  
*Karen Piontek*  
**Chris Utz\***  
*Paul Wieckowski*  
**Richard Witkowski**

## Bass

Dave Anderson  
Kurt Buker  
Timothy Face  
Ken Herzog  
**Ken Pilon**  
Daniel Sanquist  
*Bryon Weise\**



\*Section Leader  
**Bold**-Board of Governors  
*Italics*-Ensemble

# CONCERT PROGRAM

**Hamilton Medley**

arr. Lisa DeSpain

*from Hamilton*

Soloists: Colleen Herman, Sabrina Wright, & Lin Dishaw

**New York, New York**

arr. Mac Huff

*from New York, New York*

**Music of the Night**

arr. Ed Lojeski

*from Phantom of the Opera*

**Ease on Down**

arr. Mac Huff

*from The Wiz*

Performed by: Voices of the Young

**Sit Down You're Rockin' The Boat**

arr. Mark Brymer

*from Guys and Dolls*

Performed by: Seaway Chorale Ensemble

Soloist: Chris Utz

**Somewhere Medley**

arr. Stuart Scott

*from West Side Story, The Wizard of Oz*

Soloists: Shannon Raymond, Paul Wieckowski,

Rosemary Freeman & Kurt Buker

**You Can't Stop the Beat**

arr. Ed Lojeski

*from Hairspray*

Soloist: Cindy Hewlett



## INTERMISSION



# **CONCERT PROGRAM**

**My Fair Lady Medley** **arr. Andy Beck**  
*from My Fair Lady*

Soloists: Paul Wieckowski, Lin Dishaw, & Tim Face

**Someday** **arr. Mac Huff**  
*from The Hunchback of Notre Dame*

**Blue Skies** **arr. Roger Emerson**  
*from Betsy*

Performed by: Seaway Chorale Ensemble

**When I Grow up** **arr. Roger Emmerson**  
*from Matilda*

Performed by: Voices of the Young

Soloists: Libby Turner, Norah Rennie, Autumn Herm

**Gaston** **arr. Roger Emerson**  
*from Beauty and the Beast*

Performed by: Men of the Seaway Chorale

Soloists: Chris Utz & Ken Pilon

**Popular** **arr. Mac Huff**  
*from Wicked*

Performed by: Women of the Seaway Chorale

Soloist: Megan Emond

**So Long, Farewell** **arr. Ed Lojeski**  
*from The Sound of Music*

**Les Misérables Medley** **arr. Ed Lojeski**  
*from Les Misérables*

Soloists: Claudia Simons, Nannette Sauve, Karen Best, Libby  
Turner, Bryon Weise, Chris Utz, Ken Pilon, Sabrina Wright,  
Jeanne Rushman, & Jennifer Dunn

# VOICES OF THE YOUNG

Josh Dauzy  
Libby Turner  
Norah Rennie  
Emelie Searles

Lucy Hurst  
Autumn Herm  
Annika Kung  
Lilliana Reed  
Avery Hawkins



# THE SEAWAY ORCHESTRA

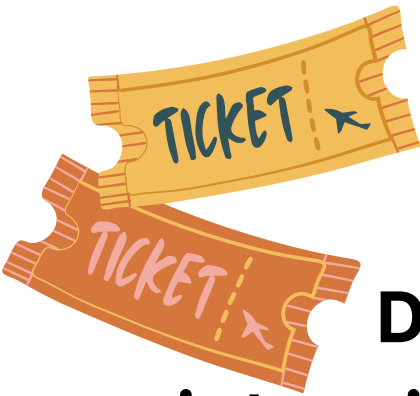
**Flute** - Alaina Volante  
**Woodwinds**-Kyrstin Jensen  
**Tenor Sax** - Jasmine Young  
**Trumpet** - Andrew Jensen  
**Trumpet** - Ray Vipond  
**Horn** - Nathan Doss  
**Trombone** - Llyod Slaven  
**Trombone** - Tim Fischer  
**Violin** - Sean O'Connell  
**Piano** - Jeremy St. Martin  
**Bass** - Michael Rais  
**Drums** - Dale Bender  
**Sound Engineer**-Graham DeVier





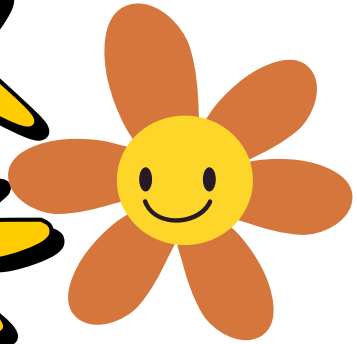
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**The concerts this season are  
dedicated to the loving  
memory of  
Don Van Every.**

