

VENTURACOLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9: 7:30 PM

LOST LUGGAGE & TANGLED LIGHTS

VENTURA COLLEGE CHORUS
& VENTURA COLLEGE SINGERS

Brent Wilson, Conductor
Mark Holmstrom, Piano

Program includes music set to texts
by Maya Angelou & selections to
celebrate the holiday season.



*"I've learned that you can tell a lot
about a person by the way s/he handles
these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage,
and tangled Christmas tree lights."*

- Maya Angelou

Ventura
COLLEGE

VENTURA COLLEGE CHORUS and SINGERS

BRENT WILSON conductor

MARK HOLMSTROM piano

PROGRAM

VC SINGERS

O Virtus Sapientiae

Hildegard von Bingen
(1098–1179)

VC CHORUS

The Rose

Ola Gjeilo
(b. 1978)

Light a Candle on this Silent Night

Glenda Franklin
(b. 1956)

MAYA ANGELOU TEXTS

Maya's Prayer for Peace

Tom Trenney
(b. 1977)

United in Purpose

Rollo Dilworth
(b. 1970)

STUDENTS OF THE VOICE PROGRAM

Amarilli mia bella

Giulio Caccini

OCTAVIUS LICON tenor

Nina

Giovanni Pergolesi

RYAN WILLIAMS tenor

Danza, danza, fanciulla gentile

Francesco Durante

ARELI LEON mezzo-soprano

“Va! Laisse couler mes larmes”

Jules Massenet

from *Werther*

REBEKAH SCHINDLER mezzo-soprano

Mi Sueño

Edward Kilenyi

HEAVEN HERRERA CRUZ soprano

PROGRAM cont'd

VC SINGERS

The World for Christmas Anders Edenroth
(b. 1963)

One Light (A Hanukkah Song) Evan Ramos
(b. 1983)

MAYA ANGELOU TEXTS

Why a caged bird sings R. Dilworth

Love Arrives T. Trenney

STUDENTS OF THE VOICE PROGRAM

Come l'allodoletta Stefano Donaudy
ISABELLA CATALANO soprano

Vergin, tutto amor Francesco Durante
CLAIRE VILLEGAS mezzo-soprano

Extase Henri Duparc
CAMILLA MENDEZ soprano

"Deh vieni non tardar"
from *Le Nozze di Figaro* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

LILITH CALHOUN soprano
Will there really be a morning? Ricky Ian Gordon
MARCELA CARMONA soprano

VC CHORUS and SINGERS

Still I Rise Mark Hayes
(b. 1953)

MAYA ANGELOU

Maya Angelou was born Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 4, 1928. She grew up in St. Louis and Stamps, Arkansas. She was an author, poet, historian, songwriter, playwright, dancer, stage and screen producer, director, performer, singer, and civil rights activist. She was best known for her seven autobiographical books: *Mom & Me & Mom* (Random House, 2013); *Letter to My Daughter* (Random House, 2008); *All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes* (Random House, 1986); *The Heart of a Woman* (Random House, 1981); *Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Merry Like Christmas* (Random House, 1976); *Gather Together in My Name* (Random House, 1974); and *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (Random House, 1969), which was nominated for the National Book Award.



Among her volumes of poetry are *A Brave and Startling Truth* (Random House, 1995); *The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou* (Random House, 1994); *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now* (Random House, 1993); *I Shall Not Be Moved* (Random House, 1990); *Shaker, Why Don't You Sing?* (Random House, 1983); *Oh Pray My Wings Are Gonna Fit Me Well* (Random House, 1975); and *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diiie* (Random House, 1971), which was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

In 1959, at the request of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Angelou became the northern coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. From 1961 to 1962 she was associate editor of *The Arab Observer* in Cairo, Egypt, the only English-language news weekly in the Middle East, and from 1964 to 1966 she was feature editor of the *African Review* in Accra, Ghana. She returned to the United States in 1974 and was appointed by Gerald Ford to the Bicentennial Commission and later by Jimmy Carter to the Commission for International Woman of the Year. She accepted a lifetime appointment in 1982 as Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. In 1993, Angelou wrote and delivered a poem, "On The Pulse of the Morning," at the inauguration for President Bill Clinton at his request. In 2000, she received the National Medal of Arts, and in 2010 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama.

The first black woman director in Hollywood, Angelou wrote, produced, directed, and starred in productions for stage, film, and television. In 1971, she wrote the original screenplay and musical score for the film *Georgia, Georgia*, and was both author and executive producer of a five-part television miniseries "Three Way Choice." She also wrote and produced several prize-winning documentaries, including "Afro-Americans in the Arts," a PBS special for which she received the Golden Eagle Award. Angelou was twice nominated for a Tony award for acting: once for her Broadway debut in *Look Away* (1973), and again for her performance in *Roots* (1977).

Angelou died on May 28, 2014, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where she had served as Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University since 1982. She was eighty-six.

VC CHORUS ROSTER

SOPRANOS

Katie Bojorquez, Annelise Ebell, Mariah Gruber, Heaven Herrera Cruz, Mae Lazarovits, Camilla Mendez, Sabrina Moreno, Izabella Ruff, Jesstina Torres, Tori Tran

ALTOS

Elaina Crenshaw, Sandra Garcia Cruz, Teresa Goodrich, Taryn Lakes, Areli Leon, Abigail Levine, Bella Cristina Ortiz, Paloma Rodriguez, Katherine Strange, Anika Velasquez, Claire Villegas, Rebekah Schindler

TENORS

Octavius Licon, Arias Robles, Ryan Williams, Neirin Winter

BASSES

Vincent Addieg, Shane Lisle, Oscar Rodriguez Dominguez,

VC SINGERS ROSTER

SOPRANOS

Lily Calhoun, Marcela Carmona, Isabella Catalano, Diane Hall, Izabella Ruff, Jesstina Torres

ALTOS

Taryn Lakes, Rebekah Schindler, Anika Velasquez

BRENT WILSON conductor

Brent Wilson is the Director of Voice, Choir, Opera and Musical Theatre, and Department Chair for the Performing Arts at Ventura College, Director of Choral Studies at University of California-Santa Barbara, and Resident Guest Director of opera at Viterbo University.

Additionally, he has been on faculty at the Tanglewood Institute through Boston University,



and Augustana College. He is a member of the National Opera Association, National Association of Teachers of Singing, American Choral Directors Association, and champions the training of young singers, having students perform in Broadway tours such as *Hamilton*, *Rock of Ages*, and *School of Rock*.

Locally as a conductor, Wilson served as Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master of Opera Santa Barbara for over twenty productions and conducted productions of *The Consul* and *Don Pasquale*. He has appeared as guest conductor for the UCSB Orchestra and Opera, receiving top prizes for collegiate opera production from the National Opera Association for the production of *Twelfth Night*.

He's worked professionally with the choruses of the Grammy-nominated ensemble Boston Baroque, Handel and Haydn Society, Handel Oratorio Society, Long Beach Camerata, Santa Barbara Master Chorale, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, Granite State Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Opera Theatre Saint Louis. His productions of *Twelfth Night* (UCSB) and *Trouble in Tahiti* (Viterbo) have won top prizes awarded from the National Opera Association. Wilson resides in Los Angeles, California with his wife, twin daughters, and his best friend, Pippin the cat. In his spare time, he enjoys competing in endurance races and has completed five Ironman competitions, fourteen marathons, and most recently ran across the Italian Dolomites Alta Via 1 75 mile trail in a weekend.

MARK HOLMSTROM piano

Rehearsal pianist and staff accompanist at Ventura College, Mark Holmstrom also keeps musically busy as Organist/Pianist at Camarillo UMC and accompanist for The Wagner Ensemble (conducted by Roger Wagner's daughter, Jeannine Wagner.) A man of eclectic musical tastes his favorite band is the Grateful Dead, but he also enjoys a wide variety of genres from classical to reggae. At Ventura College, Holmstrom has played for numerous musicals and opera as rehearsal pianist and pit musician, and accompanies voice students for preparation on jury and audition repertoire. He has collaborated with the Ventura College Chorus and Singers in over thirty concerts for the past decade.



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SPECIAL THANKS

Bernard Gibson, Luvi Avendano, Brian Hotchkin, Tara Eisenhauer,
Helen Yunker, Miriam Schwab, Noelle Neal, Simanu Faasua and the
remainder of the
Performing Arts faculty