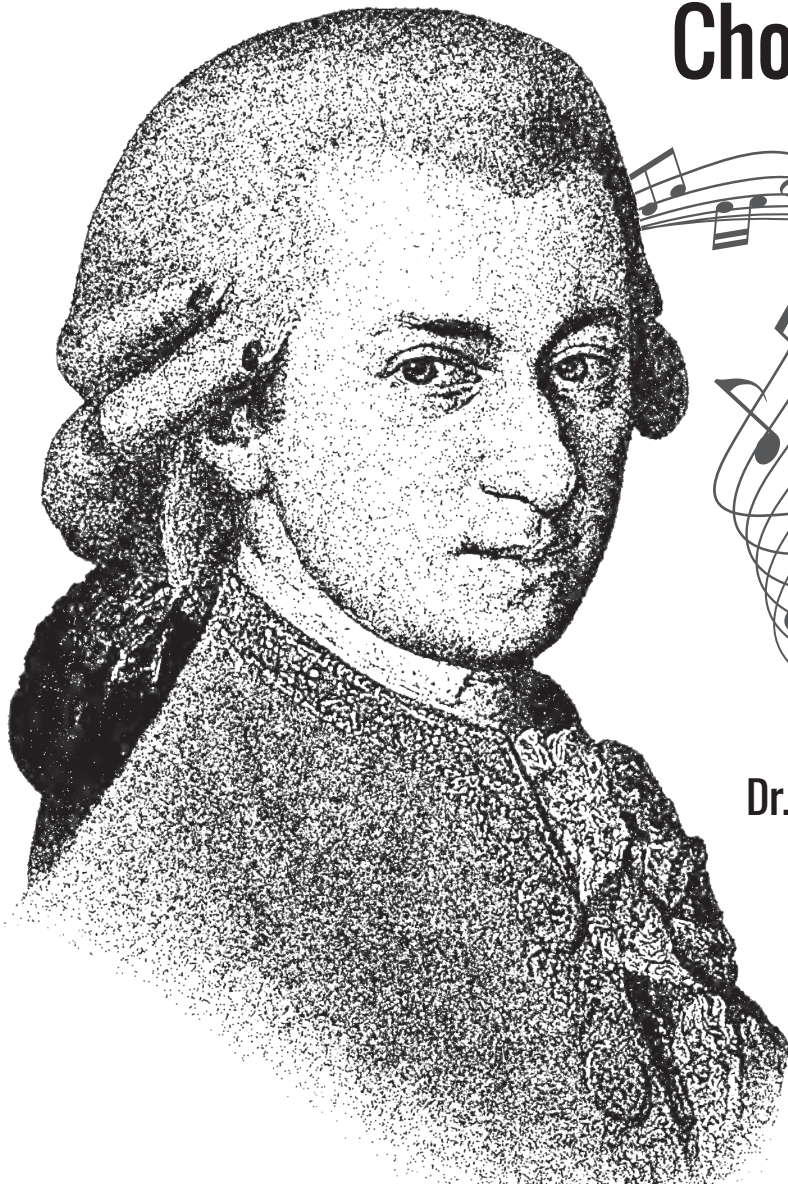


TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES DEPARTMENT OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

MOZART GALA:

Choir & Opera Scenes



Dr. Jiyeon Hwang, Opera/Choir Director
Irma Reyes, Adjunct Voice Professor
Dr. Colin Campbell, Organist
Dr. Tatiana Gorbunova, Pianist
Special Guest:
J.B. Alexander High School Choir
Ricardo Fuentes, Choir Director

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026

Center for Fine & Performing Arts Recital Hall

7:30 P.M.

TAMIU Voice & Chorale Recital

Texas A&M International University
Department of Fine and Performing Arts
April 28, 2026, 7:30 PM

In Honor of the 270th Anniversary of the Birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Dr. Jiyeon Hwang, Director | Dr. Colin Campbell, Organ | Dr. Tatiana Gorbunova, Piano

Featuring Guest: J.B. Alexander High School Choir | Director: Ricardo Fuentes

Don Giovanni: Ethan Molter (University of Texas at San Antonio)

Mozart's Choral Works

Adoramus Te
Ave Verum Corpus, K. 618
Regina Coeli, K. 276

Mozart's Opera Scene Works

Opera "*Le nozze di Figaro*"

Studio of Irma Reyes

Caro mio ben

By. *Tommaso Giordani* (1730-1806)

Alyssa Faith Molina

Aria : Se vuol ballare

Eduardo Rayo (Figaro)

Duet : Sull'aria... che soave zeffiretto

Carolina Pena (Susanna)
Mia Zamora (Contessa)

Opera “*Don Giovanni*”, Act 1

Studio of Dr. Jiyeon Hwang

Duet & Ensemble:
Giovinette che fate all’amore

Cristian Lopez (Zerlina)
Rogelio Santiago Montoya (Masetto)

Duet: Là ci darem la mano

Ethan Molter (Don Giovanni)
Cristian Lopez (Zerlina)

Aria: Ah fuggi il traditor

Valeria Gutierrez (Donna Elvira)

Quartet: Non ti fidar, o misera

Ethan Molter (Don Giovanni)
Valeria Gutierrez (Donna Elvira)
Leslie Coronado (Donna Anna)
Jared Garcia Lopez (Don Ottavio)

Aria: Or sai chi l’onore

Leslie Coronado (Donna Anna)

Aria: Dalla sua pace

Jared Garcia Lopez (Don Ottavio)

Aria: Batti, batti, o bel Masetto

Cristian Lopez (Zerlina)

Ensemble Finale: Presto, presto

Rogelio Santiago Montoya (Masetto)
Cristian Lopez (Zerlina)
Ethan Molter (Don Giovanni)
Conner Reimund (Leporello)
Valeria Gutierrez (Donna Elvira)
Leslie Coronado (Donna Anna)
Jared Garcia Lopez (Don Ottavio)

Program Note

Mozart: Choral Works

(Special feature with J.B. Alexander High School Choir & Ricardo Fuentes, Choir director)

Adoramus Te is a concise yet deeply reverent motet that reflects *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's* gift for clarity and expressive restraint. Scored with elegant simplicity, the piece unfolds in smooth, balanced phrases, allowing the sacred text to emerge with purity and directness. The transparent texture and gentle harmonic motion create an atmosphere of quiet devotion, inviting both singers and listeners into a contemplative space of worship.

The beloved *Ave Verum Corpus, K. 618*, composed in the final months of Mozart's life, stands among his most intimate sacred expressions. Written for modest forces, the work is remarkable for its refined simplicity and profound emotional depth. Its tender melodic lines, sustained choral blend, and subtle harmonic shifts evoke a sense of stillness and spiritual transcendence. The music seems to suspend time, embodying both humility and a deeply personal reflection on faith, often interpreted as a serene farewell from the composer.

In contrast, *Regina Coeli, K. 276*, radiates joy and brilliance. As a Marian antiphon traditionally performed during the Easter season, the work captures the exuberance of resurrection through lively rhythms, buoyant melodic figures, and vibrant choral textures. Mozart's writing here is both playful and celebratory, featuring energetic exchanges between voices and a bright, festive character. The piece culminates in a sense of radiant praise, offering a striking and uplifting conclusion to this set of sacred works.

Mozart's Opera Scene Works

This program highlights selected scenes and arias from the operatic world of *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*. These performances showcase the dramatic brilliance, vocal elegance, and emotional depth that define Classical-era opera.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791) was one of the most influential composers of the Classical era. A child prodigy, he began composing at a very young age and created over 600 works across many genres, including symphonies, chamber music, sacred choral works, and opera. He died on December 5, 1791, at the age of 35.

Mozart is especially celebrated for his operas, such as *Le nozze di Figaro* (The Marriage of Figaro) (1786), *Don Giovanni* (1787), and *The Magic Flute* (1791), which he composed in his late twenties and early thirties. These works continue to be widely loved by audiences and are performed annually on stages around the world. In them, he masterfully combined beautiful melodies with vivid characters and dramatic storytelling. His music is admired for its clarity, balance, and expressive depth, capturing both elegance and profound human emotion—even in his most intimate sacred works.

Mozart's operas, particularly *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Don Giovanni*, masterfully blend comedy and drama while exploring themes of love, power, and human vulnerability. Through vivid characterization and expressive music, each aria and ensemble piece reveals the characters' inner thoughts and relationships onstage.

From Figaro's clever wit in "Se vuol ballare" to the intimate lyricism of "Sull'aria," and from the playful charm of Zerlina to the emotional intensity of Donna Elvira and Donna Anna, these scenes offer a rich spectrum of operatic storytelling. The ensembles further highlight Mozart's genius in weaving multiple voices into moments of dramatic unity and tension.

The inclusion of Giordani's "Caro mio ben" provides a stylistic complement, reflecting the elegance and expressive simplicity of 18th-century Italian vocal music.

Performed by students from the studios of Irma Reyes and Dr. Jiyeon Hwang, this program celebrates both the artistry of Mozart's operatic legacy and the developing voices of the next generation of performers.

About the Operas & Characters

Le nozze di Figaro (The Marriage of Figaro)

Set over a single day, the opera follows Figaro and Susanna as they prepare for their wedding while outwitting Count Almaviva, who attempts to seduce Susanna.

-Figaro (baritone): a clever and resourceful servant

-Susanna (soprano): his intelligent and composed fiancée

-Countess (soprano): a noblewoman longing for her husband's love

-Count Almaviva (baritone): a powerful but unfaithful aristocrat

(Aria) Se vuol ballare

This aria is sung by Figaro in Act I. Having just discovered that the Count is trying to pursue his fiancée Susanna, Figaro responds with irony and determination. Outwardly, the music has the character of a graceful minuet—suggesting politeness and control—but underneath lies a sense of defiance. Figaro declares that if the Count wants to "dance," he will be the one to lead, revealing his clever plan to outwit his master. The aria blends elegance with quiet rebellion, capturing Figaro's wit and confidence.

(Duet) Sull'aria... che soave zeffiretto

This duet is sung by Susanna and the Countess Almaviva in Act III. The two women collaborate to expose the Count's unfaithfulness by composing a letter that will lure him into a secret meeting. The music is delicate, flowing, and intimate, with the voices moving in gentle harmony, reflecting both unity and subtle intelligence. Beneath its calm and graceful surface lies a clever strategy, as the women take control of the situation with elegance and quiet strength.

Don Giovanni

This drama centers on the reckless nobleman Don Giovanni, whose pursuit of pleasure leads to deception, betrayal, and ultimately his downfall. Together, these scenes highlight moments of humor, romance, conflict, and moral consequence, revealing Mozart's extraordinary ability to bring complex human characters to life through music.

-Don Giovanni (baritone): a charismatic but immoral seducer

-Leporello (bass/baritone): his servant, both amused and troubled

-Donna Anna (soprano): noblewoman seeking justice

-Don Ottavio (tenor): her devoted fiancé

-Donna Elvira (soprano): a former lover torn between anger and love

-Zerlina (soprano) & Masetto (bass/baritone): a young peasant couple

Act I (Story Overview)

In Act I of *Don Giovanni*, the drama begins with Don Giovanni attempting to seduce Donna Anna. When discovered, he kills her father, the Commendatore, and escapes. Donna Anna and her fiancé, Don Ottavio, vow to seek justice.

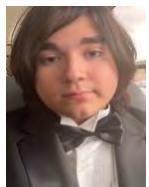
Soon after, Donna Elvira—one of Giovanni’s former lovers—arrives, furious at his betrayal yet still emotionally attached. Meanwhile, Giovanni encounters the peasant bride Zerlina and tries to charm her away from her fiancé, Masetto.

The act unfolds through deception, seduction, and confrontation, culminating in a festive gathering where Giovanni’s true nature begins to be exposed, setting the stage for his eventual downfall.

Cast Profile



Alyssa Faith Molina is a soprano studying under Ms. Irma Reyes. She has experience performing a variety of musical styles, including selections from animated films such as *Moana* and *The Greatest Showman*, as well as contemporary music like “Home comic Queen” by Kelsea Ballerini. Alyssa is an active vocalist in her church, where she sings Christian music regularly. Her experience spans both classical and contemporary repertoire.



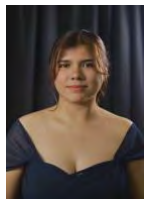
Eduardo Rayo (*Figaro*) is a baritone who began singing in high school choir, where he developed his passion for vocal and piano performance. He has continued to build his experience through participation in UIL Solo & Ensemble and UIL Choir Concert and Sight-Reading, performing in both ensemble and solo settings. Eduardo studies voice under Professor Irma Reyes, focusing on developing his vocal technique and musical expression.



Carolina Pena (*Susanna*) is a junior at Texas A&M International University, pursuing a degree in Music Education. She hopes to become a music teacher and shares her passion for music through performance and study. Carolina enjoys listening to music and hopes the audience enjoys her performance as well. She has participated in the musical plays “School House Rock”, “Company”, and “Lucky Stiff”. She looks forward to participating in this duet because of its humor and intrigue. She is a student of Ms. Irma Reyes.



Mia Zamora (*Contessa*), Mezzo-Soprano, is currently a Music Education major at Texas A&M International University. She teaches piano and voice to children, sharing her passion for music with young students. Mia has performed with the Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir in major choral works, including *Handel's Messiah* (2022) and the 2023 Christmas Concert. She continues to expand her experience as both a performer and educator. She is a student of Ms. Irma Reyes.



Cristian Lopez (*Zerlina*) is a Lyric coloratura soprano, Music Performance major at Texas A&M International University. She has been an active performer in the TAMIU Voice Studio, participating in every studio recital since beginning her studies. Cristian has also sung with the Laredo Philharmonic Choir in choral works such as *Melodies Around the World*. Throughout various university concerts and recitals, she has portrayed roles such as Papagena, Pamina, and the First Dame (*Die Zauberflöte*), *Zerlina* (*Don Giovanni*), and *Lakmé* (*Lakmé*). While completing her undergraduate studies, Cristian recently embarked on a concert tour across Michoacán, Mexico, performing a selection of classical German and Italian arias alongside art songs in Spanish and German. The tour featured recitals at the Centro Cultural Clavijero in Morelia, the Centro Cultural La Jacaranda in Pátzcuaro, and the Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo in Uruapan. This series marks a significant milestone in her emerging professional career. She is a student of Dr. Jiyeon Hwang.



Rogelio Santiago Montoya (*Masetto*) is a Music Performance student at Texas A&M International University. He has been an active performer in the musical theater community, appearing in productions such as *Ride the Cyclone* (Noel), *Company* (David), *Matilda* (Ensemble), and *The Little Mermaid* (Ensemble). His operatic experience includes roles in *Bastien und Bastienne* (*Bastien*), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Frederic), *The Mikado* (Nanki-Poo), and *Der Schauspielerdirektor* (Monsieur Vogelsang). Rogelio has performed with the Laredo Philharmonic Choir in works such as "The Seven Last Words of Christ", "Vesperae Solennes" and "Handel Messiah". During his university experience, he has portrayed roles including Tamino and Monostatos (*Die Zauberflöte*), Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*), *Masetto* (*Don Giovanni*), *Tonio* (*La Fille du Régiment*), and *Tony* (*West Side Story*). Rogelio hopes to continue gaining experience in opera and musical theater while sharing his love for the performing arts with his family, friends, and community. He is a student of Dr. Jiyeon Hwang.



Valeria Gutierrez (*Donna Elvira*), Soprano, is currently a student at Texas A&M International University, majoring in Music Education with an All-Level Certification. She has performed with the Laredo Philharmonic Choir in choral works such as "Handel's Messiah" and "Vesperae Solennes". Valeria has also been an active member of the Texas A&M International University's

Chorale and Voice Studio. In being a part of these ensembles, she has performed many choral works and given life to roles such as Adele (Die Fledermaus), Mallika (Lakme), Susanna (Le Nozze di Figaro), and Despina (Così fan Tutte). Valeria plans on continuing her education and experience within the music education field through new challenges and efforts. She is a student of Dr. Jiyeon Hwang



Leslie Coronado (*Donna Anna*) is a lyric leggero soprano and Music Performance major with a concentration in Voice at Texas A&M International University, where she studies under Dr. Jiyeon Hwang. She is an active performer recognized for her versatility and artistry across a wide range of repertoire. Leslie has performed with several distinguished ensembles, including Mariachi Internacional, the TAMIU Orchestra, the Laredo Philharmonic Chorale, and the TAMIU Chorale, and where she was featured as the soprano soloist in Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore*. Her operatic stage experience includes performances as the Second Lady and Pamina (*The Magic Flute*), Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*), Mimi (*La Bohème*), Musetta (*La Bohème*), and Maria (*West Side Story*). She continues to pursue performance opportunities that highlight her vocal abilities while contributing to the vibrant musical life of her university and community. Recently, Leslie has also participated in various vocal competitions, including the NATS Competition, in which she placed 4th place Finalist in March. She is a student of Dr. Jiyeon Hwang.



Jared Garcia (*Don Ottavio*), Tenor, is a senior Music Performance student at Texas A&M International University. He is an active performer within the Laredo community, known for his versatility and expressive artistry across a wide range of musical genres. Recently, he was awarded 2nd Prize at the NATS South Texas Regional Competition in Austin. He will continue his studies this fall at the Manhattan School of Music on scholarship. Jared has performed with several distinguished ensembles, including Mariachi Internacional, Mariachi Arrieros, the TAMIU Chorale, and TAMIU Jazz. His operatic stage experience includes portraying Mario Cavaradossi (*Tosca*), Rodolfo (*La Bohème*), Nemorino (*L'elisir d'amore*), Roméo (*Roméo et Juliette*), the Duke of Mantua (*Rigoletto*), and Tony (*West Side Story*). He continues to pursue performance opportunities that showcase his vocal skills and artistic growth. Jared studies under Dr. Jiyeon Hwang.

Guest Artist



Ethan Molter (*Don Giovanni*), Baritone, is a senior Music Education student at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He is an active performer and upcoming educator within his community at UTSA. Recently, he played the Frog Prince in the UTSA performance of *The Three Feathers*. He will graduate in the year 2027 to become a high school educator. He has performed with several ensembles, including the UTSA chamber singers, starting in 2024, with notable performances at TMEA 2026 and ACDA 2025. His operatic stage experience includes several children's operas and previous ensemble experience for other operas. He continues to pursue performance and educational opportunities that develop his vocal skills in ways that benefit teaching others. Ethan studies under Dr. McCrary at UTSA.



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