

Liberty University School *of* Music

presents

Commercial Music Showcase

October 27, 2023

Center for Music and the Worship Arts Concert Hall

7:30 PM

Commercial Music Showcase

Dr. Mindy Damon, *director*

Patrick Shorts, Dr. Cliff Lambert, Brandon Turner, *musical directors*

Michael W. Smith, *guest performer*

Program

Ain't No Grave/ Alive Forever, Amen	Emma Gutierrez, <i>soprano</i> Lucas Mayes, <i>banjo</i> ; Lauren Gutierrez, Joshua Ward, Mitchel Stevens, <i>vocals</i>	Melissa Helser, Claude Ely, Molly Skaggs, Jonathan Kelson and Travis Cottrell
Easy on Me	Kastien Chambliss, <i>mezzo-soprano</i>	Adele Adkins Greg Kurstin
Relentless Pursuit	Kylee Cowart, <i>mezzo-soprano</i>	Kylie Cowart
She's Got a Way	Derrick Kim, <i>tenor</i>	Billy Joel
Stayed on Him	Adellaie Jung, <i>mezzo-soprano</i> Anna Smith, Jada Davis, Jarissa Worst, <i>vocals</i>	Terrian Bass
Sweetest Melody	Rachael McVey, <i>mezzo-soprano</i> Abbie Phillips, <i>vocals</i>	Rachael McVey
Baby, Don't You Let Go	Ashley Miller, <i>mezzo-soprano</i> Elizabeth Cobb, Lainey Jackson, <i>vocals</i>	Sonya Issacs, Jessi Alexander, and Austin Cunningham
Sour Inside	Madi Vargo, <i>mezzo-soprano</i> Brandon Turner, <i>musical director, keys</i> Matthew Petralia, <i>acoustic guitar</i> Aaron Fredericks, <i>electric guitar</i> Graham Guy, <i>bass</i> Evan Jacobs, <i>drums</i>	Stephen Day
I Overcame	Lea Hatangimana, <i>mezzo-soprano</i> Amarachi Nnadozi, Savannah Geiger, Isabella Botero, <i>vocals</i>	Ada Ehi
Fishbowl	Morgan Holenko, <i>soprano</i>	Michael Wise Alessia Cara

Program-continued

Up in the Air

Sarah Heath

Sarah Heath, *soprano*
Anna Wagner, *vocals*

The Climb

Jessi Alexander
Jon Mabe

Jairus Mullen, *tenor*
Savannah Geiger, Destinee Lee, Amber Still, *vocals*

Warrior

Demi Lovato, Emanuel Kiraikou,
Lindy Robbins, and Andrew Goldstein

Abbie Phillips, *soprano*

Oh, the Wonderful Cross

Isaac Watts
arr. Josh Biery

Josh Biery, *pianist*
Patrick Shorts, *musical director, bass*
Carter Bowen, *keys*
Zach Bowsher, *electric guitar*
Jessiah Thomas, *drums*

Michael W. Smith

- DIRECTOR -



Dr. Mindy Damon

Dr. Mindy Damon is a stylistically diverse performing artist and vocal researcher. Completing her undergraduate studies at Liberty University in Vocal Performance, Dr. Damon also holds the Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Winthrop University, the Educational Specialist degree (Ed. S), the Doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction (Ed. D), as well as the Doctor of Worship Studies (DWS). She has performed full-time for Walt Disney World's *Voices of Liberty*, Sea World San Diego, The Holy Land Experience, TBN, and Inspiration Network. She continues to perform professionally in various musical theatre houses, concerts, with international performances in Canada, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Zimbabwe, and Martinique. Her original compositions in musical theatre have been featured at the Fringe Festival in Scotland. Dr. Damon has served on the faculty at Southeastern University, Seminole State College, and San Diego Christian College. An author and researcher, Dr. Damon's special areas of research involve quantitative research in music education, qualitative and creative artistic research in commercial vocal pedagogy. She is a member of the Council for Undergraduate Research and was the 2014 recipient of the Outstanding Quantitative Dissertation of the Year award for her research on voice instruction methods. She has presented her research on commercial voice techniques at many conferences including the National Association of Teachers of Singing, International Association of Jazz Educators, the Association of Popular Music Education, and for the 7th Estill World Voice Symposium in Quebec, Canada. Dr. Damon joined the School of Music in 2013 to serve as the Coordinator of Artist Development and Professor Associate of Commercial Music. She and her husband, Doug reside in Lynchburg, VA.

- PROGRAM NOTES -

Ain't No Grave/ Alive Forever, Amen

God promises that there will be a day that He will return to take His children home to heaven with Him! 1 Thessalonians 4:16 declares that when the trumpet of God sounds, we will rise up and forever be with the Lord in heaven! Nothing can stop Him from taking us to heaven with Him forever. No death, no sadness, no grave can hold this body down.

Easy on Me

When we make wrongful decisions and sin, Jesus is so patient to teach us. He gives us the ability to hope and glorify Him through the difficult process of learning; however, when we wrong others, there can be additional pain that comes from knowing our failures have negatively impacted others. We can see the tension between the desire for Christ to refine us and yet sitting in the shame of how we've hurt someone else. While acknowledging our sin is healthy, Christ did not die so that we would remain in shame and miss out on the beautiful process of growth that Christ promises to lead us through.

Relentless Pursuit

So often, we can fall into the enemy's trap of letting the busyness and distractions of life take us on a journey that diverts our eyes from God and put them on other things. But the beautiful thing is that even in our unfaithfulness and our pursuit of other things, we have a Faithful Father who continues to relentlessly pursue us and draw us near to Him, reminding us of who we are in Christ Jesus—the only One able to truly satisfy our wandering souls.

She's Got a Way

Remembering the qualities of women who have been influential in our lives is vital. It is always important to reach out and express these feelings. Billy Joel had a way of capturing this sentiment perfectly in the lyrics of “She's Got A Way About Her”. Derrick would like to dedicate this song to his mother in Korea, who has been so loving and supportive, even from across the world.

Stayed on Him

Isaiah 26: 3 reminds us that God will “keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you.” During times of overwhelming trials, chaos, and tribulations, we must stay faithful and keep our mind on him. He is our strength, our merciful God, our beautiful father, one who loves and trusts us, so it is our duty to uphold the will of the Lord to persevere, be steadfast and most importantly keep our minds on him. Through the peace, joy, sadness, gratefulness let's keep our minds stayed on the one true mighty God!

Sweetest Melody

This past February was marked by one of the toughest challenges I have ever had to face, an experience that no one should endure. The lyrics recount the darkness of that time, and ultimately the strength and redemption in Christ as I saw the Lord as my refuge and defender. Jesus saved me when I needed it most. This is not just about my journey; it's about the hope and redemption available to everyone.

Baby, Don't You Let Go

Everyone longs to be loved and to have the assurance that love is constant and unconditional. What a place to be when we find a love that is so rich and wonderful that we hope it never ends!

Sour Inside

It can be easy to be fooled into a relationship at first glance. Looking beneath the surface and seeing true character is key for healthy relationships. There is encouragement when we look inward to make sure that we are in alignment with what Christ has for us, and when we refuse to settle for relationships that only look good from the outside.

I Overcame

In John 16:33, Jesus tells us to not worry about the troubles of this world for he has overcome the world. With God all things are possible. No matter the struggles that come our way, our confidence rests in Christ as the Overcomer.

- PROGRAM NOTES -

Fishbowl

Sometimes we might find ourselves living in a pattern of self-sufficiency. When we try to control our circumstances, eventually those habits can start to control us if we let them. When we feel overwhelmed by everything we have to carry, it feels like we're just swimming in circles and slowly drowning. God reminds us that our strength alone isn't enough; that His ways are higher than our ways. He empowers us to finally be free from that exhausting cycle of wasted effort.

Up in the Air

This anthem written in February of this year, chronicles the personal journey of looking to looking to the future, wrestling with the unknowns, and a complete reset the Lord was doing on my heart and mind. After struggling with clinical mental illness and suicidality for several years, this season has been a critical turning point for me, taking an honest look at where my life was going, facing my past head-on, and allowing God to infiltrate my deepest pain and fears to lead me into love and freedom. This piece is a promise to myself and anyone who hears it: even if you don't have things completely sorted out, your life is worth living. If you are struggling, you are not alone; there is freedom, and there is hope in Christ.

The Climb

Focused on the destination, we can often lose sight of what we need to learn on the journey. Setting goals and following through is crucial as disciplined believers in Christ, but it is important to learn on the way, as there is always something to learn. Look around and see what He is trying to teach up today as you follow Him.

Warrior

All believers in Christ know that life's challenges don't disappear when we receive salvation. We will, as the Bible says, go through share of trials; however, Satan cannot define us by our past. God sees His children as priceless and through His Son, God imparts the righteousness of His Son on us.

Oh, the Wonderful Cross

One of the most beloved melodies, "Oh, the Wonderful Cross", holds such a time-honored reverence to many generations. Trying to recapture this melody for the current generation was important when arranging this piece, as the story of Christ's sacrifice is relevant and necessary for all generations. We must remember of the wonder of the cross and the life-changing work that Christ did as He sacrificed His life for us.

Liberty University School of Music Upcoming Events

Brass Quintet	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Doug Oldham Recital Hall (Room 170) Sun, October 29, 7:00pm
*LU Symphony Orchestra	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Mon, October 30, 7:30pm
*Songwriter Café	Green Hall, LaHaye Event Space Tues, October 31, 7:30pm
Jazz Guitar & 'Round Jericho	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Macel Falwell Recital Hall (Room 305) Thurs, November 2, 7:00pm
Chamber Singers Reunion Concert <i>Homecoming</i>	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Fri, November 3, 7:30pm
Guest Artist Recital <i>Sibbi Bernhardsson and string faculty</i>	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Sun, November 5, 5:30pm
Woodwind Chamber Ensembles	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Macel Falwell Recital Hall (Room 305) Sun, November 5, 7:00pm
*Concert Choir & University Chorale	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Tues, November 7, 7:30pm
String Chamber Ensemble	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Macel Falwell Recital Hall (Room 305) Sat, November 11, 7:00pm
*Wind Symphony & University Band	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Tues, November 14, 7:30pm
Honors Recital	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Wed, November 15, 5:30pm
Guitar Ensemble	School of Business, Towns Auditorium Thurs, November 17, 7:00pm
*Christmas on the Boulevard: POPS	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Tues, December 5, 7:30pm
*Christmas on the Boulevard: CLASSIC	Center for Music and the Worship Arts, Concert Hall Thurs, December 7, 7:30pm

**Ticketed Event. Tickets can be purchased at www.liberty.edu/tickets.*

**We would like to thank the
Liberty University Administration for
their faithful support of the School of Music.**

Dr. Dondi Costin, President
Dr. Scott Hicks, Provost and Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Stephen Müller, Dean, School of Music
The School of Music Administration, Faculty, and Staff

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