



# LOW BEAUX

## *Rocky Mountain High School*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025, 1:30PM  
BROADMOOR WEST, ROCKY MOUNTAIN BALLROOM





# PROGRAM

*John Friskney, director*

*Andrew Hahn, collaborative pianist*

*Listen to a Jubilant Song (for Double Choir)*

*Tim Sarsany*

*Hakuna Mungu Kama Wewe*

*William McKee*

*Emmanuel Bonilla and Andrew Hahn, percussion*

*Brightest and Best*

*arr. Shawn Kirchner*

*Liebst du um Schönheit*

*Clara Schumann arr. James McCullough*

*Measure Me, Sky!*

*Jonathan Reid*

*The Music of Living*

*Dan Forrest*

*Paul Beyer, horn*

*Shawn Murphy, violin*

*Finnegan Maston and Duncan O'Kelly, percussion*



# Low Beaux Personnel

## Tenor 1

Calvin Balmer  
Sawyer Bartran  
Donavan Blenkers\*  
Artemis Claycomb  
Finnegan Larkin\*  
Blake Livengood+  
Cameron Olschner  
Marcos J Patricio Isidoro  
Finnegan Sink  
Tyler Stewart

## Tenor 2

Henry Blake  
Samuel Eisen  
Sonni Golden  
Samuel Kemeny Gambrell  
Kyle Luther\*+  
Jake Palm  
Troy Sorensen\*+  
Carson Schildt  
Luke Stewart  
Elijah Sturm

## Bass 1

Jackson Bramwell  
Riley Crabb  
Ryan Freeman  
Quino Gonzalez\*  
Ryan Gurevich  
Tristan Johnston  
Wilson Kunze+  
Peter McDonald  
Benjamin Reed\*

## Bass 2

Ivan Austin-Groen\*  
Finn Gates  
Trevor Hanlon  
Benjamin Koenig\*  
Apollo Luna  
Sonny Montoya\*+  
Ilan Roybal  
Gavin Trainor  
Xander Yates\*

\* Denotes All State Choir Member

+ Denotes Leadership Position

## ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE...

Low Beaux is Rocky Mountain High School's Tenor Bass Choir. This dynamic ensemble brings together a group of talented young men including 10 Freshmen, 13 Sophomores, 7 Juniors, and 8 Seniors. The ensemble is united by a passion for music and performance all while fostering camaraderie and artistic growth.

Low Beaux is one of four vocal extracurricular ensembles offered at Rocky Mountain High School. Since the 2020 pandemic, Low Beaux had averaged 12-14 singers per year. In 2023, Low Beaux grew to 29 singers, and in 2024, Low Beaux grew to the 38 singers you see on stage today. To be a member of this ensemble, the only requirement is that you are currently enrolled in a curricular ensemble (Band, Orchestra or Choir). As an extracurricular, this ensemble only rehearses twice per week, once during zero hour for fifty minutes and once during lunch for twenty-five minutes.

Join us in celebrating the hard work and dedication of our young men in their CMEA debut performance!



## About the Director...



*John Friskney is a second year teacher at Rocky Mountain High School in Fort Collins where he teaches Choir, Music Theory and Technical Musical Theatre. He is a proud alumnus of Colorado State University where he graduated summa cum laude and received his Bachelor of Music in Music Education in 2023. While attending Colorado State University, he had the unique opportunity of directing their award-winning competitive a cappella group, Mainstreet A Cappella.*

*Despite being a second year teacher, John has been completely enthralled by choral music for over a decade and is an active member of NAFME, CMEA, ACDA, and CoACDA. John has found his roots in the professional choral community of Northern Colorado and has managed to maintain an active performing career alongside his teaching career. He currently sings with NoCo Singers, the Sanctuary Choir at First United Methodist Church in Fort Collins, and is the Assistant Director of Laudamus Chamber Chorale.*

*When he is not teaching or singing, he can be found spending time with his friends and family, golfing, skiing and working on his cars. This is John's first CMEA appearance and he is honored to share the stage with the fine Tenors and Basses of Low Beaux.*

## Inspiration for the Program...

*The program Low Beaux will be performing today is a selection of repertoire I had selected during the spring/summer of 2024, prior to finding out we were selected as a performing ensemble. Once I found out we were selected to perform, I was talking to a mentor of mine, saying I was feeling pressured to change the repertoire I had already selected because I felt as if the programming was not impressive enough, and I didn't "check all of the boxes" for a CMEA performance. This mentor told me, "The repertoire you select for your ensemble is as unique to them as a fingerprint is to each of us... You know that fingerprint better than anybody else." Through further conversation with my colleague, Elizabeth Hohweiler, I felt inspired to prepare an unfiltered look into a year with Low Beaux. This is music I love for one reason or another and I am so excited to be able to share these pieces with these students.*



# COLLABORATIVE MUSICIANS

***Andrew Vladislav Hahn** is a classically trained pianist with fifteen years of extensive piano proficiency. He has served as a collaborative pianist for high school level choirs, bands and orchestras, solo vocalists, musical theatre productions, a ballet dance academy and church choirs. Andrew also enjoys concertizing and performing at assisted living facilities and community venues. He is currently the music department accompanist at Rocky Mountain High School in Fort Collins, CO.*

***Emmanuel Bonilla** is a second year teacher at Lincoln Middle School. He graduated from Colorado State University in 2023 with his Bachelor of Music in Music Education. He directs three choirs and has established a new Modern Band program at his school. In addition to teaching music, he has the opportunity to work in the classrooms of his colleagues, where he has gained experience teaching core subjects and ELD courses. Emmanuel is passionate about building rapport with students of diverse backgrounds and working with economically disadvantaged populations. Emmanuel is also the lead instructor for Irish Elementary School's after-school mariachi program. Outside of work, Emmanuel makes and performs music with local musicians, including being the drummer for two bands, and being a member of a mariachi band.*

***Paul Beyer** is a second year music teacher at West Ridge Academy in Greeley, teaching 4th grade recorder, 5th-8th grade band, and this year he has added a 6th-8th grade modern band class. He graduated from Colorado State University in 2023 with a Bachelor's in Music Education. As an educator, Paul is most passionate about building relationships with students, and serving communities that are historically underserved. Paul is also a member of the artistic team and horn player for Rocky Mountain Pride Bands, based in Thornton. Outside of work and performance opportunities, Paul likes to compose music of his own, and spend time with friends.*

***Shawn Murphy** is currently in his fifth year directing orchestras at Rocky Mountain High School in Fort Collins, CO. For six years previous, Shawn directed orchestras at Thompson Valley High School and Walt Clark Middle School in Loveland, Colorado. His teaching career began with high school and middle school orchestras in Afton, Wyoming, then to Fort Collins at Kinard Middle School for three years. Shawn serves frequently as a guest clinician, adjudicator, and conductor for Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah honor ensembles and festivals, serves on the faculty of Camp Con Brio, and served on the Colorado ASTA and All-State Orchestra Boards. Shawn holds a BME in Instrumental Music and a Master of Music in Violin Performance from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley. Shawn spent a year in Germany with his wife, Amy, where they studied German at the Goethe Institute and the Universität Leipzig, and music at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Leipzig. The Murphys, Shawn, Amy, and son, Ben, live in Fort Collins, CO.*

***Duncan O'Kelly** has been playing drums throughout his high school career. His favorite bands are the Cranberries, Rush, and The Police. He performed with the Rocky Mountain Syrens Jazz Choir in the 2024 CMEA conference, and this year will perform with both Rocky Mountain Low Beaux and Rocky Mountain Jazz Band. Now a senior, Duncan plans to study Biochemistry in college while pursuing his passion for music on the side.*

***Finnegan Maston** is a passionate percussionist currently in Grade 11, with over nine years of experience. Throughout his musical journey, Finnegan has had the privilege of performing with several ensembles, showcasing versatility and skill across various genres. He has played with the Rocky Mountain Jazz Band and the Rocky Mountain Concert Bands, where their percussion talents have added depth to a range of concert band pieces. He has been a valued member of the Loveland Orchestra as well as performing as a featured percussionist with the Rocky Mountain Low Beaux. Finnegan is playing with the Rocky Mountain Jazz Band tomorrow here at CMEA.*

# *Text, Translations and Notes...*

## *Listen to a Jubilant Song, Tim Sarsany*

*Listen to a Jubilant Song, by Ohio composer, Tim Sarsany, is an exciting and challenging double choir setting of text inspired by American Poet, Walt Whitman. A declamatory statement from the first choir opens the piece which is immediately echoed by the second choir. Sarsany keeps the excitement and energy moving through the B section by changing meter in almost every measure, eventually returning back to the declamatory “listen to a jubilant song” statement.*

### **TEXT:**

*Listen to a jubilant song!  
Our spirit sings a jubilant song!  
That is to life full of music,  
A life full of concord,  
A life full of music,  
A life full of harmony!*

*We sing prophetic joys of lofty ideals,  
We sing a universal love awakening the hearts of men.  
O to have life a poem of new joys, to shout!*

*Listen to a jubilant song!  
Our spirit sings a jubilant song!  
That is to life full of music,  
A life full of harmony!  
We sing a jubilant song!*

# *Text, Translations and Notes...*

*Hakuna Mungu Kama Wewe, William McKee*

*Hakuna Mungu Kama Wewe is a traditional Swahili song that Texas Musician, William McKee, became familiar with while touring Kenya with the Baylor University Choirs. After returning to the States, McKee couldn't get the melody out of his head, and subsequently this arrangement was created. Hakuna Mungu is McKee's only published work and all proceeds of sales from the piece go directly towards the Baylor University Men's Choir's project of supporting young Kenyan children.*

## **TEXT:**

*Hakuna Mungu Kama Wewe*

*There is no one like Jesus*

*Hakuna Nahatakuwepo*

*There is no one like him*

*Nemetembea kote kote*

*I've walked and walked all over, over*

*Nimetafuta kote kote*

*I turned and turned all over, over*

*Nemezunguka kote kote*

*I've searched and searched all over, over*

*Hakuna na Hatakuwako*

*There's no one, there's no one like him*

*Hakuna upendo kama wako*

*There is no love like Jesus*

*Hakuna nahaitakuweko*

*There is not, and there will never be*

*Hakuna nguvu kama zako*

*There is no strength like yours*

*Hakuna nahaitakuweko*

*There is not, and there will never be*

# *Text, Translations and Notes...*

*Brightest and Best, Shawn Kirchner*

*Brightest and Best, is a lively arrangement for TTBB Chorus and piano of the sturdy American hymn tune, Star in the East, with text by Reginald Heber. A banjo-inspired piano accompaniment provides sparks while the tune is presented in unison (verse 1), in canon (verse 2), and adorned with counter-melodies (verse 3). The homophonic four-part refrains grow in intensity, culminating in a dramatic a cappella outburst.*

– Shawn Kirchner

## **TEXT:**

*Verse One:*

*Hail the bless'd morn, see the great Mediator  
down from the regions of glory descend!  
Shepards go worship the babe in the manger,  
lo, for his guard the bright angels attend.*

*Refrain:*

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid.  
Star in thee East, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

*Verse Two:*

*Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,  
low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall.  
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker, and Monarch, and Savior of all.*

*Verse Three:*

*Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion,  
odours of Edom and off'rings divine,  
Gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?*



# Text, Translations and Notes...

*Liebst du um Schönheit, Clara Wieck Schumann arr. James McCullough*

Clara Wieck Schumann (1819-1869) was a German romantic era composer, performer, and musical prodigy. Being a distinguished pianist, Clara's compositions even further highlighted the importance of the piano in her incredibly expressive accompaniments. *Liebst du um Schönheit* was one of Clara's first pieces published after she married Robert, some historians say it was her response to receiving *Myrthen* and *Frauen-Liebe und Leben* from Robert on their wedding day. Dr. James McCullough, Massachusetts composer, took this simple but highly crafted melody and arranged it for TTBBB voices creating beautiful tone colors and different rhythmic and harmonic ideas. *Liebst du um Schönheit* speaks of loving beyond the physical aspects, loving for love.

## TEXT:

*Liebst du um Schönheit,  
O nicht mich liebe!  
Liebe die Sonne,  
Sie trägt ein goldnes Haar.*

*If you love for beauty,  
O love not me!  
Love the sun,  
She has golden hair.*

*Liebst du um Jugend,  
O nicht mich liebe!  
Liebe den Frühling,  
Der jung ist jedes Jahr.*

*If you love for youth,  
O love not me!  
Love the spring,  
Which is young each year.*

*Liebst du um Schätze,  
O nicht mich liebe!  
Liebe die Meerfrau,  
Sie hat viel Perlen klar.*

*If you love for riches,  
O love not me!  
Love the mermaid,  
Who has many shining pearls.*

*Liebst du um Liebe,  
O ja, mich liebe!  
Liebe mich immer,  
Dich lieb' ich immerdar!*

*If you love for love,  
Ah yes, love me!  
Love me always,  
I shall love you ever more!*

# Text, Translations and Notes...

*Measure Me, Sky! Jonathan Reid*

*Measure Me, Sky, by up and coming South Carolina composer, Jonathan Reid, is a stunning setting of the timeless poem by Leonora Speyer. In this setting, the piano plays an integral role in setting the scene for Speyer's meaningful poetic ideas and providing us with the foundation of the work. Speyer did not begin writing poetry until she was in her forties and Measure Me, Sky, was one of her first published compositions. The choir believes this composition was very personal to her and reflective of the big life changes she was facing at the time. The piece begins with a sense of uncertainty and anticipation which gradually unfolds into a beautiful feeling of being swept away by the piano. The singers of Low Beaux have described this piece as feeling hopeful, passionate, vulnerable and leaving them feeling that they have limitless potential.*

## **TEXT:**

*Measure me, sky!  
Tell me I reach by a song,  
Nearer the stars;  
I have been little so long.*

*Weigh me, high wind!  
What will your wild scales record?  
Profit of pain,  
Joy by the weight of a word.*

*Horizon, reach out!  
Catch at my hands,  
stretch me taut,  
Rim of the world:  
Widen my eyes by a thought.*

*Sky, be my depth.  
Wind, be my width and my height,  
World, my heart's span;  
Loveliness, wings for my flight.*

# *Text, Translations and Notes...*

*The Music of Living, Dan Forrest*

*The Music of Living, by world renowned composer, Dr. Dan Forrest, is an exuberant setting of text overflowing with joy and optimism of life. The exhilarating piano accompaniment creates an atmosphere of excitement and joy while the choir's longer, rhythmically slower phrases create a feeling of relaxation. The addition of solo horn, violin, and percussion completely transforms this piece creating a warm, inviting atmosphere.*

## **TEXT:**

*Giver of life,  
Creator of all that is lovely,  
Teach me to sing the words to Your song.*

*I want to feel the music of living;  
And not fear the sad songs  
But from them make new songs  
Composed of both laughter and tears.*

*Giver of life,  
Creator of all that is lovely,  
Teach me to dance to the sounds of Your world.*

*I want to move in rhythm with Your plan  
Help me to follow Your leading,  
To risk even falling,  
To rise and keep trying,  
For You are leading the dance.*

*Giver of life,  
Creator of all that is lovely,  
Teach me to sing the words to Your song.*



# THANK YOU



**ANDREW HAHN**, COLLABORATIVE PIANIST, FOR YOUR INCREDIBLE ARTISTRY AND FRIENDSHIP. YOU BRING SO MUCH LIGHT INTO OUR COMMUNITY AT ROCKY, I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR THE MUSIC AND MEMORIES WE HAVE MADE.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC COLLEAGUES**, ELIZABETH HOHWEILER, CHOIRS, LOGAN DODDRIDGE AND KENYON SCHEURMAN, BANDS, SHAWN MURPHY, ORCHESTRAS AND SHELLY LAGUARDIA, MUSIC DEPARTMENT SECRETARY. I FEEL SO HONORED AND UNDESERVING TO WORK ALONGSIDE YOU ALL EVERY DAY. TO WORK SOMEWHERE WHERE I AM CONNECTED, INSPIRED, AND ALWAYS LEARNING FROM MY COLLEAGUES IS A BLESSING. THANK YOU.

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**DR. NATHAN PAYANT** FOR YOUR MENTORSHIP AND WISDOM. I AM SO GRATEFUL TO CALL YOU A MENTOR AND FRIEND.

**LOW BEAUX 23-24** FOR TAKING A RISK ON ME AND PRODUCING THE FANTASTIC AUDITION SELECTIONS THAT LED US HERE. YOU ALL INVESTED SO MUCH INTO THE CULTURE OF THIS ENSEMBLE AND FOR THAT I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL. I AM SO PROUD OF YOU BOYS; I LOVE YOU ALL SO MUCH.

**FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THE 24-25 LOW BEAUX** FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO CHORAL MUSIC AND INVESTING IN THESE YOUNG MEN. YOUR SUPPORT, TRUST, KINDNESS AND ENTHUSIASM IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. I COULD NOT HAVE ASKED FOR A BETTER GROUP TO SHARE THIS JOURNEY WITH.

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