

New Music Ensemble

October 17, 2026

2:00pm

Modern Art Museum

Program

Muted Prayer for solo viola (2024)

Dirk Brossé

(1960)

Abby Douglas, viola

Balm in Gilead

arr. Shawn Okpebholo

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

(b. 1981)

James D. Rodriguez, baritone

Kristen Queen, flute

Amy Stewart, piano



Abby Douglas is a graduate from Wheaton Conservatory of Music in Illinois where she studied viola performance and pedagogy with a certificate in worship studies under Professor Rose Armbrust Griffin. She is currently pursuing her graduate degree in viola performance at Texas Christen University with Dr. Mikhail Galaganov. Abby is also a member of Sol Quartet and teaches through her private studio and substitutes at Country Day School Fort Worth.



Amy Stewart is an Instructor II in the choral, jazz, musicology, and theory departments at TCU, and conducts the Purple, White, and Blues vocal jazz ensemble. She has a BM in Vocal Performance, MM in Organ Performance from TCU and Doctor of Worship Studies degree from the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies. After graduating from TCU in 2000, she made her home in New York City. While there, Amy appeared in many solo venues and was the featured soloist in four concerts with the New York Pops Orchestra at Carnegie Hall with Skitch Henderson. Amy started as a young child in the recording studio where she performed on hundreds of recordings for educational and choral publications and commercials. Amy is married to Jack Stewart and they make their home in Fort Worth with their puppy, Bear.



Baritone, **James D. Rodriguez**, has appeared in operatic works by Bizet, Rossini, Mozart, Donizetti, Strauss, Verdi, Catán, and many others. Favorite roles include Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Tonio in *Pagliacci*, Dr. Rappaccini in *La Hija de Rappaccini*, Herr Fanninal in *Der Rosenkavalier*, and the title roles in *Rigoletto* and *Falstaff*. Other appearances include those with Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera in the Heights, Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre, Opera Theatre Pittsburgh, the Natchez Festival of Music, and the Moores Opera Center. He recently performed in the workshop reading *For the Love of Uvalde*, an opera by composer Kevin Day and librettist Ayvaunn Penn. Concert appearances include Beethoven's *9th Symphony & Mass in C*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, Carlisle Floyd's *Pilgrimage*, Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, *Goodall's Eternal Light: A Requiem*, and Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* with the Houston Camerata, Fort Bend Symphony, and San Antonio Symphony, among others.

An avid collaborator, he has performed recitals with PianoTexas Festival with Dr. Michael Bukhman, the Festival of American Song with Dr. Cecilia Lo-Chien Kao (with composer Libby Larsen in residence), Opus Nova, Mt. Vernon Music, and Austin Chamber Music Center, for which he was awarded an Austin Critics Table Award for his participation in "Black Composers Concert: The Black Female Composer", with pianist, Dr. Artina McCain. In addition, he has performed as part of a trio with Drs. McCain and Alfred, touring the works of Black women composers as part of a recital series throughout the United States. In 2024, he sang as part of the Mahogany Chamber Music Series at the Crosstown Theater in Memphis, Tennessee and premiered *COLOSSUS: Mother of Exiles* by Christopher Aspaas with the TCU Concert Chorale. In fall 2026, he will sing the baritone soloist in Roberto Sierra's *Missa Latina* in collaboration with the TCU Symphony Orchestra & Concert Chorale, with the composer in residence. He is also the recipient of the gold medal in the Young Texas Artists Vocal Competition, where critics praised his approach of "character first, opera divo second," rendering a "witty and hilarious" performance (Houston Culture Map).

Dr. Rodriguez has presented his research on underrepresented composers and vocal health at conferences associated with the National Association of Teachers of Singing—both regionally and nationally—The Pan American Vocology Association, the inaugural season

of PriceFest, the Texas Music Educators Association, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, and at the International Congress of Voice Teachers. He is an Associate Professor of Voice & Voice Pedagogy at Texas Christian University, where he oversees the pedagogy area. Dr. Rodriguez holds advanced degrees from the University of Houston and earned a vocology certificate from the National Center for Voice and Speech.



Dr. Kristen Queen serves as Director of the Academic Research Center for the TCU College of Fine Arts in Fort Worth, Texas. In this inaugural position for the College of Fine Arts, Dr. Queen leads six departments and schools in supporting students' retention and experience, expanding and teaching TCU's Arts Leadership and Entrepreneurship programs, leading health and wellness initiatives, and collaborating with the TCU Burnett School of Medicine programs. Prior to joining the College of Fine Arts, Dr. Queen held the position of Interim Director of the TCU School of Music from 2018-2021. Dr. Queen is a 200-Hour Registered Yoga Teacher (RYT), holds certificates in Psychological First Aid, Essentials of Performing Arts Health, Leading Diverse Teams & Organizations, and is the developer/instructor of the TCU course, "Yoga for Musicians." She has presented at conferences, workshops, and universities both nationally and internationally about the importance of health and wellness for college students, including those in performing arts disciplines. She is an active teacher and performer of flute who programs music of the last century, especially that of women composers. Her recent research and presentations also focus on the importance of leadership paths and strategies for women in higher education. Dr. Queen completed her Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership at TCU and also holds a Master of Music degree from Northwestern University and Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Oklahoma. She is an alumna of the prestigious HERS Bryn Mawr Summer Leadership Institute for women faculty and administrators and currently serves on the TCU Clark Society Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Music Futures Collective. She recently served on the Commission on Accreditation for the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) and as President of the Board of Directors for the Friends of WRR Classical 101.1FM Radio. Beginning January 1, 2027, Dr. Queen will assume the position of Executive Director for National Arts Accreditation which includes the National Associations of Art & Design (NASAD), Dance (NASD), Music (NASM), and Theatre (NAST), among other affiliate organizations and functions.