

A decorative border with a repeating floral and scrollwork pattern, featuring stylized leaves and flowers, framing the central text.

The Pioneer Choirs proudly present their annual
Pre-Festival & Scholarship Concert

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
7:30 p.m.

East Grand Rapids High School
Performing Arts Center

Emily Kapolka, Director
Todd Wilkie, Accompanist

Treble Chorus

Regina Angelorum

From Litaniae Lauretanae, K. 109

W.A. Mozart/arr. Catherine Bennett

Program Notes: This sacred work, a setting of the Marian Litany of Loreto (a Catholic prayer to the Virgin Mary) was composed in Salzburg in 1771 when Mozart was just 15 years old. Mozart later held official positions as a church and court musician in Salzburg, serving as the Archbishop's court organist from 1779–1781, which required him to play the organ at Sunday Masses in the Salzburg Cathedral and compose sacred music, though he found the role limiting and longed for more artistic freedom.

Translation *O glorious queen of angels, patriarchs, and prophets, pray for us.*
:
 O glorious queen of the twelve apostles, martyrs, and confessors, pray for us.
 O glorious queen of virgins and holy queen of saints, pray for us.

Birdsong

Paul Read

Program Notes: The text of “Birdsong” comes from a collection of poems written by Jewish children who, while incarcerated in the Terezin Concentration Camp in Czechoslovakia during WWII, wrote of their experiences and dreams. This unknown, young author writes of the beauty of the world rather than of the horrors and destruction of his or her present circumstances. The text's positive and uplifting message is all the more striking when placed against the backdrop of war, the loss of personal freedom, and the death and terror of the Holocaust.

<i>Text:</i>	<i>He doesn't know the world at all Who stays in his nest and doesn't go out He doesn't know what birds know best Nor what I sing about That the world is full of loveliness. When dewdrops sparkle in the grass, And earth is aflood with morning light. A blackbird sings upon a bush To greet the dawning after night Then I know how fine it is to live.</i>	<i>Hey, try to open your heart to beauty; Go to the woods someday And weave a wreath of memory there Then if tears obscure your way You'll know how wonderful it is Oh how wonderful to be alive.</i>
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Pioneer Chorus

Amanti Costanti

From The Marriage of Figaro

W.A. Mozart/arr. Patrick Liebergen

Program Notes: Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* follows a single, chaotic day where servants Figaro and Susanna try to marry, but their employer, Count Almaviva, tries to seduce Susanna, forcing the couple and the neglected Countess to conspire using disguises and mistaken identities to thwart the Count and secure their wedding. This leads to comic confusion, revelations, and ultimately forgiveness and a double wedding. It's a witty opera about love, class, fidelity, and forgiveness, full of mistaken identities and clever plotting. The chorus piece "Amanti costanti" (Constant lovers) is sung at the very end of Act III of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, during the finale where the Count, Figaro, Susanna, and others celebrate the supposed restoration of virtue, though it's filled with dramatic irony!

Translation *Constant lovers, followers of honor,*
:
 Sing praises to our wise lord.
 By renouncing a right which outraged and offended,
 He leaves you pure for your lovers.

The Old Mill

Kenneth Riggs

Program Notes: In this setting of poetry by Thomas Dunn English, the continuous, rhythmic, and inevitable turning of the mill wheel symbolizes the steady, unceasing passage of time and the cycles of nature and human life. The action of the mill is tied to an unchanging societal routine and a cycle of labor that binds both man and machine to their condition. By the end of the poem, the speaker, now an old man, contrasts his youth with his current age, using the enduring mill to represent the transient nature of human life within the larger, perpetual cycle of existence and eventual death.

*Text: Here from the brow of the hill I look,
Through a lattice of boughs and leaves,
On the old gray mill with its gambrel roof,
And the moss on its rotting eaves.
I hear the clatter that jars its walls,
And the rushing water's sound,
And I see the black floats rise and fall
As the wheel goes slowly round.

I rode there often when I was young,
With my grist on the horse before,
And talked with Nelly, the miller's girl,
As I waited my turn at the door;*

*And while she tossed her ringlets brown,
And flirted and chatted so free,
The wheel might stop or the wheel might go,
It was all the same to me.*

*'T is twenty years since last I stood
On the spot where I stand to-day,
And Nelly is wed, and the miller is dead,
And the mill and I are gray.
But both, till we fall into ruin and wreck,
To our fortune of toil are bound;
And the man goes, and the stream flows,
And the wheel moves slowly round.*

Varsity Voices

All Ye Who Music Love

Baldassare Donato/arr. Russell Robinson

Program Notes: This piece is a lively, lighthearted Renaissance madrigal; the quintessential *villanella*, which is a Venetian song form characterized by rhythmic energy and rapid, conversational exchanges between vocal parts. It also features a mix of duple and triple meters in homophonic style.

*Text: All ye who music love
And would its pleasures prove
O come to us who cease not daily
From morn 'til eve to warble gaily!*

*Come lads and lasses all
Obey the tuneful call
O come to us who cease not daily
From morn 'til eve to warble gaily!*

Tatkovina

Macedonian Folk Song/arr. Greg Jasperse

*Small group: Sophia Kolekamp, Mia Owings,
& Chloe Panter*

*Translation: The spring gave me the sun
I gave her a smile in return
And now in this heart of mine
Gentle love is beaming.*

*O Fatherland, a broad field,
Peace in a holy forest
O Fatherland, a field of dew
You are my love.*

Jane Baker

State-Qualifying Soloist

Del cabello más sutil

Fernando Obrador

*Translation: From the finest hair in your tresses
I wish to make a chain
to draw you to my side.*

*In your house, I'd fain be a pitcher,
to kiss your lips
whenever you went to drink. Ah!*

Bella Voce

Suscepit Israel

from *Magnificat in D*

J.S. Bach

Translation: He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy.

El Romantón

Francisco Muro/arr. Miguel Astor

Program Notes: El Romantón was composed by the popular singer Francisco Muro using the rhythm of the *Pasodoble* which was of Spanish origin. This dance was very popular at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century and was played mainly in bands called *cañoneros*. These bands were much in vogue in the open air squares of the city, particularly in the Plaza Bolívar which was situated in the center of the town. The text depicts the society of the time when the young maids and men liked to buy imported clothes, but did not have enough money to pay for them.

*Translation: There are many young maids
Who like the beautiful shawl
But when it's time to pay for it
They hide from the seller.*

*There are also many young ladies
Who like to wear silk cloth
But when it's time to pay for it,
They hide in the kitchen.*

*Enchanting woman,
Don't just make conversation!
Either you give me the money,
Or I'll take back the shawl!*

*There are many young men
Who like to be fashionable
And they confuse the sellers
So that they can steal a cashmere.*

*Later, you see these dandies
Around Caracas wearing coat tails
But they haven't noticed
That the seller is running after them!*

*There he goes, followed by the seller!
There goes the young maid; there she goes!
And she is hiding
Because she does not want to pay!*

Madrigals

My Spirit Sang All Day

Gerald Finzi

Program Notes: Gerald Finzi's "My Spirit Sang All Day" is a joyful choral piece, part of a set of Robert Bridges poems, that expresses the ecstasy of finding true love, culminating in the realization that "Thou art my joy," a personal ode to his wife, Joy. The music captures the poet's quest for happiness, transforming from searching questions to a triumphant declaration, with the repeated "O my joy!" becoming a poignant reference to Finzi's beloved.

Good Night, Dear Heart

Dan Forrest

Program Notes: Susy Clemens (the eldest daughter of Mark Twain) died unexpectedly at age 24 and left him heartbroken. She is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery, in composer Dan Forrest's hometown of Elmira, NY, and the text of this piece is a four-line poem, written by her father, and etched on her tombstone.

*Text: Warm summer sun, shine kindly here
Warm southern wind, blow softly here
Green sod above, lie light
Goodnight, dear heart, goodnight.*

All Choirs

Stand Together

Jim Papoulis

Pioneer Choirs

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Treble Chorus

Soprano

Charlotte Bigoness
Zoe Boogaart
Harper Doran
Cece Ellis
Milan George
Hannah Gerkin
Alivia Lube
Rose Mason
Bella Remes
Franny Richards
Camryn Rodriguez
Fiona Schultz
Joanne Watson

Alto

Mercedes Alonso
Eleanor Balding
Elodie Crawford
Joeli Deane
Natalia Elias
Isla Hilbert
Avery Hungerford
Zari Jefferson
Mars Klein
Ella Martin
Callie McCune
Mackenzie Sweet
Julia Teegardin
Lilly Verwey

Pioneer Chorus

Soprano

Lena Kolekamp
Arya Pai
Olivia Rostic
Simone Scott
Ellery Steiner
Uma Valentine

Alto

Madi DeLiefde
Linnea Elzinga
Brynn Leestma
Birdee Nichols
Emilie Starzyk
Mimi Tjoelker

Tenor

Liam Brown
Max Cronin
Alex Lowry
Lincoln Russell

Bass

Max Alonso
Oliver Bigler
Tupper Gorman
Wesley Janson
Jaylen Jno-Pierre
Parker Proux

Varsity Voices

Soprano

Maria Godlewski
Mary Horrigan+
Sophia Kolekamp
Julia Lueck
Marie Millet
Brooklyn Riesenbeck

Alto

Nox Arnall*
Mia Owings
Chloe Panter
Tori Rowland
Shyla Stewart-McDuel
Kaylee Stover
Charlotte Trost

Bella Voce

Soprano I

Makenna Bopp
Eliana Freudigmann
Gracie Ham*
Josie Huyser
Brielle Kreitzer+
Elsa VanDeven+

Soprano II

Jane Baker*+
Emmalin Cinglie
Catherine Grin*
Kate Mulder+
Marisol Sura^+

Alto

Zoë Cunningham*
Hillary Griffin*
Ruby McIntyre*
Arabella Soule+
Mady Suzio
Zoe Wolfen+

Madrigals

Soprano

Emily Grin*
Kylie Hampton*
Charlotte Mulder**^+
Gloria Rossi*
Fionnola Walsh**^

Alto

Kate Artz*
Lia deGoa**^
Sophia Dublis**^+

Tenor

Patrick Brew
Miles Vargic
Erik Wyczynski*

Bass

Jeremiah Bullock+
Brody Smith
Alex Stout

* Senior Choir Member
^ IB Student
+ Private Voice Lessons

Vocal Music Celebrations!

Congratulations to our two outstanding East Grand Rapids soloists for their performances at District Solo & Ensemble Festival this past Saturday, February 7 at Ottawa Hills High School.

Both soloists performed for different judges, and were assessed on tonal beauty, breath management, musical elements, language elements, interpretation, and presentation. They earned scores higher than 24 out of 30, which qualifies them for an invitation to perform at State Solo & Ensemble in April! GO EAST!

Jane Baker, senior

Jeremiah Bullock, junior

Volunteers Needed!

While most roles for District Choral Festival are filled by students, some roles require adult oversight.

Please see your email for a Sign Up Genius with details about running the Registration Table or being a performance Announcer on Festival Day!

Shifts are typically two hours.

We appreciate your support to help the event run smoothly!



District Choral Festival Performance Times

Thursday, February 19
East Grand Rapids High School

Bella Voce

8:00 a.m.

Pioneer Chorus

9:20 a.m.

Treble Chorus

11:40 a.m.

Madrigals

1:00 p.m.

Varsity Voices

2:20 p.m.

EGRHS Spring Vocal Music Performances

Melodies in March

Monday, March 16

7:00 p.m. PAC

Bella Voce & Madrigals only

State Solo & Ensemble

Friday, April 17 & Saturday, April 18

Performance Times TBD

Soloists only

High School Choirs Pops Concert

Tuesday, May 5

7:30 p.m. PAC

ALL CHOIRS

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The East Grand Rapids Music Boosters organization supports music education in our schools through financial and volunteer assistance. Volunteers usher all of the middle school and high school music performances; provide band, orchestra and choir uniform fittings and alterations; act as band camp organizers and choir helpers; assist with orchestra performances and community outreach, and so much more. The Music Boosters also provide financial assistance for things like guest conductors, Madrigal costumes, marching band and choir uniforms, school instrument purchases, band camp counselors and drum line coaches, to name a few.

The Music Boosters provides summer music lesson tuition assistance for 6-11th graders and a senior scholarship for one senior each in band, choir, and orchestra.

Thank you for your generous support!

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Next Music Booster Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 5:30 p.m. - Learning Commons