



# Interlochen

## ARTS ACADEMY

Interlochen, Michigan  
48th Program of the 64th Year

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### INTERLOCHEN VOICE FESTIVAL FACULTY AND GUEST ARTIST RECITAL

#### Featuring Guest Artists

Ruby Amanfu, singer-songwriter  
Jerry Blackstone, conductor  
Gordon Hawkins, baritone  
Casey Robards, collaborative piano

Saturday, October 25, 2025      7:30pm, Dendrinos Chapel/Recital Hall

"El Grillo" ..... Josquin des Prez  
(c.1440-1521)

#### Interlochen Arts Academy Chamber Singers

W. Carter Smith<sup>o</sup>, conductor

Troubled Water ..... Margaret Bonds  
(1913-1972)

Casey Robards, piano

"House of Princes" ..... Joshua Davis<sup>o</sup>

Joshua Davis, vocals and guitar

Medley: "Loving You" / "If I Loved You" ..... Stephen Sondheim/Richard Rodgers  
from *Passion* / *Carousel* (1930-2021) (1902-1979)

Ty Chiko<sup>o</sup>, baritone

Hyemin Kim<sup>o</sup>, piano

"Bessie Bobtail," Op. 2, No. 3 ..... Samuel Barber  
(1910-1981)

Christine Roberts<sup>o</sup>, mezzo-soprano

Ya-Ju Chuang<sup>o</sup>, piano

- "Ich trage meine Minne," Op. 32, No. 1 ..... Richard Strauss  
(1864-1949)  
Laura Osgood Brown<sup>o</sup>, soprano  
Casey Robards, piano
- "Sure on this Shining Night," Op. 13, No. 3 ..... Samuel Barber  
(1910-1981)  
Gordon Hawkins, baritone  
Casey Robards, piano
- "How Could I Ever Know" from *The Secret Garden* ..... Lucy Simon  
(1940-2022)  
Ty Chiko, baritone  
Hyemin Kim, piano
- "O del mio dolce ardor" from *Paride ed Elena* ..... Christoph Willibald Gluck  
(1714-1787)  
Laura Osgood Brown, soprano  
Casey Robards, piano
- "At the River" ..... Aaron Copland  
(1900-1990)  
Gordon Hawkins, baritone  
Casey Robards, piano
- "Blue Sky" ..... Courtney Kaiser-Sandler<sup>o</sup>  
Courtney Kaiser-Sandler, vocals and guitar
- "Anyone Who Knows What Love Is" ..... Ruby Amanfu  
Ruby Amanfu, vocals  
Bryn Roberts<sup>o</sup>, piano
- "No Courage Without Fear" ..... Ruby Amanfu  
Ruby Amanfu, vocals  
Bryn Roberts, piano
- "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" ..... Traditional Appalachian Tune  
arr. J. David Moore
- Interlochen Arts Academy Chamber Singers**  
Jerry Blackstone, guest conductor

<sup>o</sup> Denotes IAA Faculty/Staff

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## INTERLOCHEN ARTS ACADEMY CHAMBER SINGERS

W. Carter Smith, conductor      Troy Burnett, manager  
Dylan Rosenthal and Jenna Storiz, librarian

Elena Amado, Del.  
Rowan Barber, Mich.  
Romeo Caterino, Mich.  
Emma Grace Coon, Miss.  
Vivian Furtaw, Mich.  
Kai Hanna, Mich.  
Alex Harstad, Fla.  
Soren Hillesland, Calif.  
Hudson Kardish, Mich.  
Alicia Ko, Hong Kong  
Tina Lim Siow Jin, Malaysia

Hannah Messineo, Idaho  
William Murray, Mich.  
Jaden Salii, Calif.  
Artemis Scheiber-Loeis, N.Y.  
Francis Segger, Conn.  
Sophia Stabenow, Ill.  
Viraj Tathavadekar, Mich.  
Jimmy Teti, N.J.  
Chase Willson, Mich.  
Alexander Zampedri, Pa.

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**Ruby Amanfu** is a Ghana-born, Nashville-based GRAMMY, Soul Train, and BET Award nominated songwriter and recording artist. Having written and recorded music since her teens, Amanfu has released 11 critically acclaimed solo studio albums and her songs have appeared in shows such as "The Morning Show," "Station 19," "Little Fires Everywhere," "Community," "Nashville," "Pretty Little Liars," and in films such as *The Secret Life of Bees*, *Hope Springs* and *The Photograph*. Her accolades include co-writing two Grammy-nominated Songs of the Year, "Hard Place" for the artist H.E.R. and "A Beautiful Noise" for artists Alicia Keys and Brandi Carlile.

GRAMMY Award winner **Jerry Blackstone** is a leading conductor and highly respected conducting pedagogue. Now emeritus professor of conducting, he served on the faculty of the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance for 30 years where as director of choirs he led the graduate program in choral conducting and oversaw the University's 11 choirs. In February 2006, he received two GRAMMY Awards ("Best Choral Performance" and "Best Classical Album") as chorusmaster for the critically acclaimed Naxos recording of William Bolcom's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*. Blackstone is an active guest conductor and workshop presenter and has appeared in 42 states as well as New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Sicily.

Beginning his career singing the bel canto roles of Italian opera, **Gordon Hawkins** drew early praise from critics like Lon Tuck of the *Washington Post*, who pronounced him to be "one of the most promising young singers of the

decade.” Since then, Hawkins has been critically acclaimed throughout the world for his in-depth interpretations and luxuriant baritone voice. A winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and the George London Grant recipient, he has been praised for his rich lyricism as well as his dramatic instinct. He is a winner of the Luciano Pavarotti Competition and in 2006 was honored as the Washington National Opera “Artist of the Year.”

Korean adoptee, **Casey Robards** is a music director, pianist and vocal coach known for her sensitive musicality, expert collaborative skill, stylistic versatility and expressive conducting. Sought after as a collaborative artist, she has given recitals throughout the United States, Europe, Central and South America, and Asia. She has been dedicated to the performance, research, and promotion of music by Black composers and writers for nearly three decades, with a focus on the Negro spiritual as well as places of intersection between gospel, jazz, and classical music. Robards is Music Director of Ensemble Concert 21, a chamber group devoted to the performance of contemporary music and the mentorship of young and emerging composers. She is currently on the faculty of the University of Illinois.

For Interlochen Arts Academy voice faculty and extended guest artist bios, please visit our website at [interlochen.org/music/academy/instrument-festivals](http://interlochen.org/music/academy/instrument-festivals) or scan the QR code with your phone’s camera.



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You can ensure the next promising young artist has the opportunity to come to Interlochen by supporting student scholarships. Make your gift to the Interlochen Annual Fund by visiting [www.interlochen.org/giveonline](http://www.interlochen.org/giveonline).

Many of our venues are equipped with induction loop systems for the hearing impaired. Please ask one of our ushers if you need assistance connecting to the system. Support for recent upgrades to these systems provided by Michigan Arts and Culture Council; the NEA; Rotary Charities of Traverse City; the Les and Anne Biederman Foundation, Inc.; the Oleson Foundation; and Robert W. Anderson.

In consideration of the performing artists and other patrons, the use of flash photography is not permitted. Federal copyright and licensing rules prohibit the use of video cameras and other recording equipment.

In order to provide a safe and healthy environment, Interlochen maintains a smoke-free and alcohol-free campus. Michigan law prohibits any weapons, including concealed weapons, on Interlochen property because we are an educational campus.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**[www.interlochen.org](http://www.interlochen.org)**