



*Bella
Voce*

As the Tree Stands Tall

Bella Voce Treble Chorus

Faubion Middle School ~ McKinney, Texas

American Choral Directors Association

Invited Chorus ~ 2023

As the Tree Stands Tall



Bella Voce

2022-2023

McKinney Independent School District

proudly presents

**Faubion Middle School
Bella Voce Treble Chorus**

in concert for the

American Choral Directors Association

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

6 p.m.

Faubion Middle School Auditorium

McKinney, Texas

and

Thursday, February 23, 2023

9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Proctor & Gamble Hall, Aronoff Center

Cincinnati, Ohio



Faubion Middle School Choral Program



Bella Voce Treble Chorus

Faubion Middle School serves a diverse population of approximately 1,300 students, 37% of whom identify as Hispanic, 15% of whom identify as African American, and 41% of whom are classified as economically disadvantaged.

With 220 singers in the choral program, Bella Voce is an auditioned chorus with 52 girls that closely reflects the diversity of the Faubion community. With a strong history of success at Solo Festival, UIL Concert & Sight-reading Evaluation, and All-Region Choir, Bella Voce exemplifies the essence of hard work. Many of the singers are pillars not only in the choir family, but also in athletics, theatre, Student Council, and National Junior Honor Society.



Soprano 1

Ava Able (7th)
Ella Brabec (7th)
Ava Branch (7th)
Felicity Chambers (8th & Co-Section Leader)
Matilda Elliott (8th)
Elizabeth Engle (7th)
Sara Gonzalez Schaefer (7th)
Harper Hutcherson (7th)
Malia Law (7th)
Mia Medina (8th)
Emma Pertsovsky (7th)
Anvita Rastogi (7th)
Audrey Sather (8th & Section Leader)
Kate Shakespear (8th)
Carly Stroffolino (7th)
Emery Swint (8th)



Soprano 2

Zoë Bradley (7th)
Callie Briones (8th)
Chloe Briones (8th)
Ellie Bumpus (8th)
Taniya Coleman (8th)
Hayley Creecy (8th)
Alexis DuPré (7th)
Lesslie Estrada (8th)
Ellie Fish (8th)
Ryane Forck (7th)
Lilliana Herman (8th)
Meghan Jenkins (7th)
Daphne Jimenez (8th)
Madison Jones (8th)
Morgan Lane (8th)
Keltie McLaughlin (8th)
Addison Messenger (8th & Co-Section Leader)
Tara Schroeder (8th & Section Leader)
Kaylynn Wells (8th)



Alto

Lilyana Bakri (7th)
Abigail Freney (8th)
Vanessa Garcia-Vasquez (8th)
Haydee Gomez (8th)
Allison Howard (8th & Section Leader)
Emerie McDonald (8th)
Ritah Mwasi (7th)
Kate Nelson (7th)
Briana Rodriguez (8th & Co-Section Leader)
Gracie Schaibley (8th)
Molly Smith (8th)
Amber Sorey (7th)
Ruby Swanner (7th)
Zioya Toombs (7th)
Vivienne Vest (7th)



As the Tree Stands Tall

The Faubion Middle School Bella Voce Treble Chorus from McKinney, Texas crafted today's performance to celebrate the milestones shared in our human experience. From birth and acceptance into our family and tribe to discovering a love for love. From being defined by the path taken to the playfulness and joy of love's first kiss. From planting deep roots and spreading our wings to embracing and uplifting each other in song. From life's first cry to final breath, we stand together with you in song.

Throughout their musical metamorphosis, Bella Voce found inspiration in learning about the "butterfly effect," the words of Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken," the brilliant text of each selection, and the fundamental importance of belonging. These diverse music-makers and creators exemplify excellence and kindness in all they do. Bella Voce thanks those who came alongside and supported their creative endeavors, especially their families, Mr. Boom, Dr. Critchfield and many others listed in the digital program available by scanning the QR code on your card.

Now please open your ears, minds, and hearts as we welcome the Faubion Middle School Bella Voce Treble Chorus accompanied by Jim Wilson under the direction of Liz Turner and Courtney Wilson.



Cancion de Los Tsáchilas Arranged by Michael Sample

The English translation of the Tsafiki text roughly speaks about the strong women of the "Chiguilpe" community preparing for a celebration with "chica" (the beverage).

Liebst du um Schönheit Clara Schumann / Arranged by Drew Collins

Love me for beauty, then do not love me!
Go love the sun, for she has golden hair!
Love me for youth, then do not love me!
Go love the springtime, for spring is ever young!
Love me for wealth, then do not love me.
Go love the mermaid, for she has many pearls.
Love me for love, then yes, do love me!
Love me forever, love me forever more!

The Little Road Music and Body Percussion by Moira Smiley / Text by Josephine Preston Peabody

The lyrics speak of moments when we must decide whether to follow the road into the unknown, or to stay with what is known, dear and comforting. The body percussion is gentle—born out of the rhythm of walking and the gestures of discovery, excitement, resignation, and heart-searching.

The little road says go
The little House says stay
It's sweet here at home, but I must go away
The little road like me would seek and turn and know
And forth I must go to learn the things the little road
would show.

And go I must my dears
And journey while I may
Though my heart be sore for the little house that had no word but 'stay'
Maybe no other way your child could ever know why a little
house would have to stay
When the little road says 'Go'

Niska Banja..... Arranged by Nick Page

The word 'Niska' refers to the city of Nis in Serbia. 'Banja' means bath. The song is a flirtatious dance that basically means "Let's go to the baths of Nis where we shall kiss, kiss, kiss."

As the Tree Stands Tall..... Daniel Schreiner / Text by Chris Wallitner

As the tree stands tall
Deeply rooted in its virtues,
We stand strong
Firmly planted in hope.
We branch out
Providing shelter for the lost!
As the tree stands tall,
We stand together with you.
Like a child needs its mother
We must all look to each other.
Until we grow
And can fend for ourselves.
Then we shall fight
Protecting children of our own.
As the tree stands tall
We stand together with you.

We know a storm is comin'
and we know it's comin' soon,
Bringing wind and thunder
Destruction and fear.
But come the dawn the sky will be clear...
For though they try to cut us down
We shall never fall!
We will stand together
As the tree stands tall.
When our time at last has come
and we've sung our final song,
It echoes with our children
Our legacy lives on.
In the silence you can hear
Through the leaves our sacred call.
As the tree stands tall...

We Are Held..... Music by Susan LaBarr & Jim Wilson / Text by Robert Bode

As the sunset by the sky
And as all the birds that fly,
By His arms, both you and I,
We are held.

As the ship is by the sea,
And the nest upon the tree,
Ever cradled, ever free,
We are held.

As a tune rung clear and fair,
And the silence trailing there,
As this music by the air,
We are held.

As a tune rung clear and fair,
And the silence trailing there,
As this music by the air,
We are held.

Amen SiakudumisaBy S.C Molefe / Arranged by Cameron F. LaBarr

Amen, We Praise Your Name, O God.



Liz Turner, Director

Liz Turner, aka “Mama T”, is in her 29th year of teaching young singers, 22nd year of teaching choir, and her seventh year at Faubion. Previously, she was the choir director at Haggard Middle School, Shepton High School, and Plano West Senior High School in Plano, Texas. She is a current member of Texas Music Educators Association, American Choral Directors Association, and Texas Choral Directors Association and serves TMEA Region 24 as the MS/JHS Chair. Mrs. Turner is the 2023 Teacher of the Year for Faubion Middle School.



Mrs. Turner earned her Bachelor of Music Education from Texas Christian University (Magna Cum Laude) in 1994, where she was a member and officer of Mu Phi Epsilon, Texas Music Educators Conference (College Student Vice President), and Music Educators Organization. She was the recipient of the Howard T. Walsh Scholarship, the Texas Choral Directors Association Dr. Ruth Whitlock Scholarship, Golden Key National Honor Society, Mortar Board, Pi Kappa Lambda, National Dean's List, and the TCU College of Fine Arts and Communication Dean's List every semester. She earned her

Master of Education from the University of North Texas with a minor in music. Mrs. Turner studied conducting with Dr. Doreen Rao through the summer Choral Music Experience Institute, where she earned all three levels of certification.

A member of her church's Praise Team, Mrs. Turner enjoys singing in the choir where her husband of 22 years serves as the orchestra director. In her free time, you can find her reading the latest novel or swimming with her “boys”; husband Jeff, Director of Fine Arts in Allen ISD; Danny, violinist and luthier at Dallas Strings; and Jack 9th grade cellist.

Liz would like to thank...Jeff, Danny, and Jack Turner; Jo Ann Robertson; Daryl Jackson; Jarrett Hatcher; Linda Price Parker; Linda Wright Ice; Debra Moses; Judy Putney Crim; Mary Jane Phillips; Nora Henson; Cynthia Nott; Dr. Doreen Rao; Jason Dove; Cindy Johnston; and Brooke Riley.

In Memoriam... Jim Robertson, Bill & Gene Jacob, Glenda & Jim Casey, Dr. Ruth Whitlock, Ron Shirey, Pat Messick, Larry Tucker.

Courtney Wilson, Associate Director

Courtney Wilson is in her 6th year of teaching middle school choir. This is her first year at Faubion, previously teaching at Murphy Middle School in Plano ISD and The Classical Center at Brandenburg Middle School in Garland ISD. She is a current member of Texas Music Educators Association and Texas Choral Directors Association.



Ms. Wilson graduated Magna Cum Laude from Northwestern State University of Louisiana with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance in 2015. She then moved to Dallas, Texas to pursue a Masters Degree in Music Education from Southern Methodist University, which she completed in 2017.

During the summers, Ms. Wilson is the Associate Director of the Music Educators Workshops at Southern Methodist University, and has had this position since 2019. She is also the Section Leader and Alto Soloist at Preston Hollow United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas. In her free time, Ms. Wilson enjoys loving her two dogs, Duke and Stella, and online shopping.

Courtney would like to thank her family and colleagues that ever gave her advice and support on her journey and helped shape her into who she is today!

Jim Wilson, Accompanist

Jim Wilson has been an active member of the Dallas-Fort Worth music community for the last thirty years. He currently serves as pianist at Christ United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas, and is the full-time accompanist for the Children's Chorus of Collin County and the choral programs at Faubion MS, Plano Senior HS, Wylie East HS and several other middle and high schools.



Jim has been the pianist for a variety of nationally-recognized events and groups and is the only pianist to have accompanied all four Texas All State Choirs in consecutive years. He plays keyboards for the band Boomtown, performs with several local jazz and cover bands, and works nationally as a pianist with vocalists and instrumentalists. Jim is also a percussionist, composer, and arranger, and is proud to perform "We Are Held", co-written with Susan LaBarr and recently published by Walton Music, as part of today's performance.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Christian University and a Master of Science degree from the University of Arizona. Jim and his wife Amy are proud parents of two daughters and reside in Plano, Texas. When not performing, Jim can often be found in Latin America, his happy spot, as well as assisting and advocating for immigrants back home in the U.S.

Candace Tillman, Vocal Coach

Candace Tillman studied Music Performance in Voice with a Minor in Theatre at Graceland University in Iowa. She has worked as a private voice teacher for 21 years out of her home studio and has enjoyed her partnership with MISD for the past 7 years. Having a classical background, her teaching style focuses heavily on healthy vocal production, sight reading, music theory, and performance quality of chosen music. She emphasizes a thorough understanding of vocal pedagogy (the anatomy of the voice) for her middle and high school students.

Her students have consistently enjoyed the highest levels of success in their musical endeavors, including exemplary ratings at UIL Solo & Ensemble contests as well as placement in the prestigious All-Region and All-State Choirs. She has studied with many notable musicians and performed as a soprano with the Dallas Symphony Chorus, the Plano Civic Chorus, St. Louis Chamber Chorus, the University of Saskatchewan Chamber Choir (Canada), and Bayerische Staatsoper (Munich Opera) as well as enjoyed many opportunities as a soloist for oratorios and other large works with symphonies both domestically and internationally. Candace has served as the Music Director at her church for the past 15 years where she leads children's, ukulele, and handbell choirs.

She and her husband live in McKinney with their 5 daughters and dog. She is an active member of the Texas Music Educators Association.

McKinney ISD High School Directors

We send you our babies, so they will learn
to soar!

Tanner Wilemon & Gabby Kruger
McKinney High School Choral Directors

Joseph Tompkins & Amy Harrington
McKinney Boyd High School Choral Directors

Chris Ahrens & Rachel Gillespie
McKinney North High School Choral Directors



To the Attendees of the American Choral Directors Association Conference,



On behalf of McKinney ISD, we are very pleased that the Faubion Middle School Treble Chorus, Bella Voce, has been invited to perform at the 2023 American Choral Directors Association National Conference.

It is truly a privilege to have one of our middle schools selected as a participant in this elite honor that very few choirs ever achieve.

McKinney ISD is incredibly privileged to have a phenomenal Fine Arts Department including Faubion Middle School's Head Choir Director Liz Turner and Assistant Choir Director Courtney Wilson. We are very proud of Mrs. Turner and Ms. Wilson and their talented group of students for this exciting achievement.

Thank you for supporting the arts and Faubion Middle School in extending this invitation to our students. We are honored to be a part of this very special event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick McDaniel". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rick McDaniel, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Dear Members of the American Choral Directors Association,



On behalf of the students, staff, and parents of the Faubion Family, we hope that you enjoy the music that our Bella Voce Treble Chorus has prepared for you. In conjunction with our Fine Arts Department, the dedicated work of our choristers and directors led to this exciting time for our school community.

Our Bella Voce Chorus' performance at this prestigious showcase brings our school tremendous pride. Mrs. Turner and Ms. Wilson have shown excellent leadership in the fine arts, and the choir students in Bella Voce Chorus are a reflection of that leadership. Our music programs challenge students to perform at the absolute highest level, and at the same time our choir teachers have provided the support that is needed to succeed through challenges.

In my role as a principal, my hope is that our school leaders will continue supporting choir and all the fine arts. Our students need a place where they can showcase their talents, learn critical skills, and belong to a supportive community. I am grateful for the McKinney ISD leaders who make the fine arts a priority. We understand how life-changing the arts, including choir, can be and recognize how rewards and recognitions support student achievement.

Thank you for selecting us for this incredible honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitch VandenBoom". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mitch VandenBoom
Principal, Faubion Middle School

To the Attendees of the American Choral Directors Association Conference,



The McKinney Independent School District is proud and honored that the Faubion Middle School Bella Voce Treble Chorus is performing at the National Conference of the American Choral Directors Association. This performance represents a culmination of purposeful instruction, meaningful rapport, and partnership between the directors, students, and community. We are grateful for the opportunity to showcase these incredible students at such a prestigious venue.

The vision of the McKinney ISD Fine Arts Department is to uplift students who, in turn, inspire others. This vision is on full display in the Faubion Middle School Choir room. These students earnestly and generously give of their effort and abilities in response to the warm, nurturing, and caring ethic of directors Liz Turner and Courtney Wilson. The reciprocal giving between teachers and students is evident in the personal and musical connections that you will enjoy at this concert.

Mrs. Turner and Ms. Wilson are exceptional choral music educators. They are committed to teaching the diverse student population at Faubion, and they have fostered a tradition of excellence in all their choirs. Their students recognize this dedication to individualized personal investment through choral beauty. One accurately summarized Ms. Turner's efforts to develop choral musicians in a culture of inclusivity: "I love how welcoming this choir is because Ms. Turner understands everything, and she is like a mom to all of us."

The staff and administration at McKinney ISD are very proud of these students for their continued success. We recognize their incredible work, and we thank their parents, teachers, campus leadership, and school board members for their support and commitment to a robust fine arts program. In McKinney, such achievements occur in a community who values and understands the necessary role of the arts in our students' lives. We are profoundly grateful for the village that willingly raises these students.

Thank you for attending this concert and for supporting these wonderful and talented musicians. I am confident you will enjoy what you hear and feel.

Sincerely,

Jared B. Critchfield II

Jared B. Critchfield II, PhD
Director of Fine Arts

Thank you!

McKinney ISD Board of Trustees: Amy Dankel, President; Philip Hassler, Vice President; Stephanie O'Dell, Secretary; Chad Green; Larry Jagours; Harvey Oaxaca; Lynn Sperry

Superintendent: Dr. Rick McDaniel

McKinney ISD Fine Arts Department: Dr. Jared Critchfield, Director; Debbie Meyer, Office Manager; Helen Cantrell, Administrative Assistant

Faubion Middle School: Mitch VandenBoom, Principal; Dr. Sara Kriesel-Hall, Assistant Principal (A-G); Roberto Dominquez, Assistant Principal (H-O); Michael Demakas, Assistant Principal (P-Z); Brooke Jones, Counselor (A-G); Daniel Rodriguez, Counselor (H-O); Christina Kiefer, Counselor (P-Z); Judy Chamorro, Office Manager; Armida Gonzalez, Bookkeeper

MCKINNEY
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT