

## Alfred University Choirs to present spring concert

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ALFRED, NY – The Alfred University Chorus, Chamber Singers, and the Alfred Volunteer Choir Comp any will join voices to present a spring concert on Saturday, May 4, that celebrates diversity, community and hope.

“It’s a way of speaking out against hate and prejudice...through the power of music,” said Luanne Crosby, professor of voice and chorus at Alfred University, who will direct the choirs.

The free concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church. It will feature folk songs from Venezuela and Argentina; songs by Billy Joel; and “Eli, Eli,” a song based on the 1942 poem "A Walk to Caesarea" by Hungarian-Jewish resistance fighter Hannah Szenes.

The program also includes three movements from a longer work by American choral composer Craig Hella Johnson entitled “Considering Matthew Shepard.” This is especially fitting as Shepard’s ashes were just recently interred in the National Cathedral on the 20th anniversary of his brutal murder.

The Choirs will be joined by special guest, Alfred University alumnus Chaz Bruce ’08, who has been working with the singers on gospel music. Selections include Kirk Franklin’s “Down By the Riverside” as well as a tribute to Aretha Franklin with “Respect.” Bruce earned a bachelor’s degree in theater from Alfred University and is currently Western New York Director at New York Institute of Dance and Education.

Concert-goers may find themselves “dancing” out of the church as the program concludes with a Caribbean “Kyrie” featuring Ted Canning on steel drum and Dustin Woodard on percussion.