

THE BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC  
Dr. Stephen W. Sachs, Chair

presents

*Victoria Jelstrom  
Swilley,  
A Musical Theatre  
Senior Project*

*Assisted by*

*Mrs. Nicole Harwell, accompanist*

Tuesday, April 27, 2010  
7:30 p.m.  
Belhaven University Center for the Arts  
Concert Hall

## **BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Music Department seeks to produce transformational leaders in the musical arts who will have profound influence in homes, churches, private studios, educational institutions, and on the concert stage. While developing the God-bestowed musical talents of music majors, minors, and elective students, we seek to provide an integrative understanding of the musical arts from a Christian world and life view in order to equip students to influence the world of ideas. The music major degree program is designed to prepare students for graduate study while equipping them for vocational roles in performance, church music, and education. The Belhaven University Music Department exists to multiply Christian leaders who demonstrate unquestionable excellence in the musical arts and apply timeless truths in every aspect of their artistic discipline.*

*The Music Department of Belhaven University directs you to "Arts Ablaze 2009-2010." Read about many of the excellent performances and presentations scheduled throughout this academic year at Belhaven University by the Arts Division. Please take a complimentary copy of "Arts Ablaze 2009-2010" with you.*

*The Music Department would like to thank our many community partners for their support of Christian Arts Education at Belhaven University through their advertising in "Arts Ablaze 2009-2010". It is through these and other wonderful relationships in the greater Jackson community that makes an afternoon like this possible at Belhaven. We praise God for our friends and are truly thankful for their generosity. Please mention The Arts at Belhaven University when you visit our community partners.*

*If you would like to receive email news-concert updates from the Belhaven University Music Department, please add your name and email address to the sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer. It would be our pleasure to keep you informed regarding the recitals/concerts to be presented by the Music Department at Belhaven during the Spring Semester, 2010.*

*Thank you to those working behind the scenes to make today's program a success: music faculty supervisor, Dr. Christopher Shelt; student workers – Tony Peacock and Emmerly Jefferson, ushers; Abby Wiggins, stage manager; Jocelyn Zhu and Josh Harton, stagehands/page turners; Drew Lamb, recording/sound and lights.*

### *Upcoming Events:*

*Thursday, May 6, 2:00pm, Concert Hall*

*Thursday, May 6, 7:30pm, Concert Hall*

*Friday, May 7, 11:00am, Concert Hall*

*Sarah Jones, Senior Recital*

*Jimmy Brown & Micheal Hall, Senior Project & Junior Recital*

*Zak Valle, Senior Recital*

***There will be a reception after the program in the foyer.***

***Please refrain from the use of all flash photography.***

***Please turn off all pagers and cell phones.***

# PROGRAM

## “I Can’t Do It Alone:

**Musical Direction, Choreography and Staging by Victoria Jelstrom Swilley**

**Accompanist: Nicole Harwell**

**Stage Manager: Abigail Wiggins**

## ACT I

What Is This Feeling? - *Wicked*

Stephen Schwartz  
(b. 1948)

Galinda: Valerie Tate  
Elphaba: Victoria Jelstrom Swilley

Wicked is a show that tells the story of the Wizard of Oz from the witches’ point of view. Glinda, the future Good Witch, and Elphaba, the future Wicked Witch of the West, were forced to room together in school. Through this song, they discover how they feel about one another.

Valerie and I were roommates during the 2008-2009 school year, and we quickly discovered we are as different as pink and green, but we got along a lot better than Glinda and Elphaba did! I enjoyed applying green makeup to every visible bit of skin for our performance in Best of Belhaven that year. However, if you happen to notice a green smudge here or there on the walls of the music wing, I didn’t do it!

No Good Deed - *Wicked* (2003)

Stephen Schwartz  
(b. 1948)

Elphaba: Victoria Jelstrom Swilley

This song comes later in Wicked, as Elphaba’s world comes crashing down around her. Her sister, Nessarose, the ruler of Munchkinland, has just been crushed by Dorothy’s flying house; her hero and mentor, Dr. Dillamond, has been murdered by the Wizard’s agents; and Elphaba’s love interest, Fiyero, has just been captured by their enemies. Elphaba despairs; all her efforts to be good in life have failed and she feels doomed to be “wicked” for the rest of her life.

Not Dead Yet - *Spamalot* (2005)

Eric Idle with John Du Prez  
(b.1943)(b.1946)

Not Dead Fred (Dad): Rebeka Larson  
Lancelot: Christina Alexandersen  
Robin: Ann Boswell Johnson  
Bodies: Lauren Rutledge, Alice Grimwood, Sarah Bravo, Elizabeth Borst, Temperance Jones

Spamalot is a show based on the film “Monty Python and the Search for the Holy Grail”. This scene is the fateful meeting of “The Homicidally Brave” Sir Lancelot and Sir Robin “The Not Quite As Brave As Sir Lancelot.” They decide to leave their current employment (bullying and plague victim collecting, respectively) and go to Camelot to enlist in King Arthur’s “Knights of the Round Table”.

This song is so very silly, which is why I love it. I had been planning to do a traditionally all-male number with an all-female cast, and this song was perfect. It makes an already funny song even more hilarious!

The Song That Goes Like This - *Spamalot* (2005)

Eric Idle with John Du Prez  
(b.1943)(b.1946)

Sir Dennis Galahad: Chris Carlson  
The Lady of the Lake: Victoria Jelstrom Swilley

Chris is a dear friend of mine. We met during Belhaven's 2005 production of Great Theater of the World "way back" in our freshman year. We have been meaning to do a duet for years, and since we both love hamming it up and Monty Python, this song was a natural choice. The blocking was conceived by just "fooling around" in rehearsal, and it's funnier than anything I could have come up with by sitting down with a pencil and the score.

I Can't Do It Alone - *Chicago* (1975)

John Kander and Fred Ebb  
(b.1927)(1933-2004)

Velma Kelly: Victoria Jelstrom Swilley  
Roxie Hart: Valerie Tate

In this scene from the musical *Chicago*, Velma Kelly, former star of the vaudeville stage and double-murdering news sensation, demonstrates the act Velma and her sister performed. Velma wants Roxie Hart, the newest popular murderess in the Cook County Jail, to agree to perform the act together once they get out. Roxie, riding high on her fifteen minutes of fame, is very pointedly disinterested.

I have been tap dancing since I was about 5 years old, and it's the kind of dance that comes most easily to me, since it is in essence playing 4 percussion instruments (albeit with your feet). I re-choreographed this piece to suit tap shoes instead of character shoes, and threw in a few of my favorite steps, including "double wings".

Getting Married Today - *Company* (1970)

Stephen Sondheim  
(b. 1930)

Amy: Victoria Jelstrom Swilley  
Jenny: Valerie Tate  
Paul: Andrew Craig

In this scene from Sondheim's *Company*, Amy and Paul are finally getting married. Jenny, Amy's maid of honor, is helping her get ready for the ceremony, but Amy is getting cold feet.

I love this piece because it's an opportunity to "bring on the crazy" a bit. Andrew and Valerie are my dream cast for this piece, and the dress is my actual wedding dress! Thanks to Ms. Gray for introducing me to Sondheim's shows in general, this show in particular, and this song especially!

Stay With Me - *Into The Woods* (1987)

Stephen Sondheim  
(b. 1930)

Witch: Victoria Jelstrom Swilley  
Rapunzel: Alice Grimwood

In this touching song from *Into the Woods*, the Witch berates her adopted daughter, Rapunzel, for allowing the prince to climb up the braid of her hair and visit her in her tower prison. The Witch has cut off Rapunzel's hair so she can no longer see the Prince, but the damage has already been done. The Witch grieves the fact that she is no longer sufficient to fulfill all Rapunzel's needs, as she could when Rapunzel was a child, a sentiment shared by all parents with grown-up children.

This song makes me cry almost every time I sing it. Alice, you have done an amazing job as Rapunzel. Thank you for being my daughter in the show and for babysitting my son this semester. I would like to dedicate this song to my mother, Anna Jelstrom, and my son, Timothy Clark Swilley.

Growltiger's Last Stand - *Cats* (1982)

Andrew Lloyd Webber  
(b. 1948)

Growltiger: John Mathieu  
Griddlebone: Ann Boswell Johnson  
Solo 1: Christina Alexandersen  
Solo 2: Rebeka Larson  
Solo 3: Alice Grimwood  
Solo 4: Temperance Jones  
A Persian: Sarah Bravo  
A Siamese: Dennis Williams  
Chorus: Lauren Rutledge, Elizabeth Borst, Temperance Jones

Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats* is a musical of vignettes, which each tell a different cat's story. This song is about Growltiger, a pirate cat. I sang it for juries a few semesters ago, and it's marathon piece to sing as a solo! When I was in grade school, I won tickets to *Cats* by calling in to a local classical music radio station. I remember feeling strange after the performance, like something momentous had occurred, and it had: I had found the perfect expression of my love of performing in musical theater. It was, if you will, my conversion and baptism into the world of the musical. It's been so great to come up with my own creative staging for this piece, and to work with such a talented cast members, who really have taken the staging and made it their own.

### ***INTERMISSION***

*Please enjoy 15 minutes of instrumental music from some of my favorite shows.*

### **ACT II**

Jolly Holiday - *Mary Poppins* (2006)

Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman  
(b.1928)(b.1925)

Bert: Andrew Craig  
Mary Poppins: Victoria Jelstrom Swilley

The film *Mary Poppins* was often played in our house when I was growing up, because it was my sister's favorite movie. I will admit to getting very sick of it as a child, but now that I've had some distance from it, I have discovered how wonderful it is all over again. Now *Mary Poppins* is a show on Broadway, and I would love the opportunity to play the role of Mary someday.

Thank you, Andrew Craig, for making time to do this role in my show. I'll always remember how your eyes lit up when I mentioned that I needed someone to be Bert for me.

The More You Ruv Someone - *Avenue Q* (2003)

Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx  
(b.1974)(b.1970)

Christmas Eve: Victoria Jelstrom Swilley  
Kate Monster: Temperance Jones

In the highly irreverent musical *Avenue Q*, kids' TV show characters have grown up and moved to a run-down apartment complex in New York owned by a has-been child star. Kate Monster, a muppet-like character, is in a relationship with a guy from the building, but they have had a fight. Christmas Eve, Kate's Japanese-born friend, tries to comfort her and gives Kate her strange brand of advice in her "Engrish" accent.

Anyone who really knows me knows my passion for all things Japanese. I like think of myself like an egg: white on the outside, but yellow on the inside. ☺ So please understand that no offense is meant on the part of the performers or the composers, who have included a note to that effect on the score itself. Avenue Q is all about being able to laugh at yourself and not taking life seriously, and I hope this piece is recieved in the same spirit.

The Hot Honey Rag - *Chicago* (1975) John Kander and Fred Ebb  
(Music from the *Fosse* Original Broadway Cast Album) (b.1927)(1933-2004)  
Choreographed in the style of Bob Fosse by Victoria Jelstrom Swilley  
Dancers (in order of appearance): Elizabeth Borst, Christina Alexandersen, Lauren Rutledge

Another high-energy piece from *Chicago*, the Hot Honey Rag originally starred Velma and Roxie making it big onstage after their release from prison. I have re-choreographed and re-staged it for three people in the style of *Chicago's* choreographer, Bob Fosse.

Mr. Cellophane - *Chicago* (1975) John Kander and Fred Ebb  
(b.1927)(1933-2004)  
Victoria Jelstrom Swilley

Yet another song from *Chicago*, Mr. Cellophane is sung by Amos Hart, Roxie's mistreated and ignored husband, who does nothing but work hard for and adore his wife. However, his affection and sacrifices to provide for her needs go completely unnoticed as Roxie pursues her own fame and leaves him alone and bereft. I sang this song for Music Studio Class my very first semester at Belhaven, and it was very well received. In fact, they asked me to sing it in Best of Belhaven, too!

Gaston - *Beauty and the Beast* (1994) Alan Menken and Howard Ashman  
(b.1949)(1950-1991)  
Gaston: Dr. Christopher Shelt  
LeFou: Victoria Jelstrom Swilley  
Bar Wenches: Ann Boswell Johnson, Temperance Jones, Rebeka Larson  
Tom: Christina Alexandersen  
Dick: Lauren Rutledge  
Stanley: Dennis Williams  
Cronie: Elizabeth Borst  
Old Woman: Alice Grimwood  
Bartender: Sarah Bravo

*Beauty and the Beast*, another Disney film-turned-Broadway hit, was always one of my favorite movies growing up. I related to Belle's love of reading and desires for adventure and romance even as a young child. I'm sure my mom would be happy to share stories with you about me wearing an apron and singing by the bookshelf. I really wanted to include Dr. Shelt, my mentor and voice teacher of five years, in my program, and he has been a great sport throughout the process. Dr. Shelt, you have helped make me the person and the artist that I am today. Thank you for always being patient with me and willing to listen and give counsel whenever I need it, even in the middle of a voice lesson. You always bring me back to what's really important: honoring God with every facet of my life.

Being Alive - *Company* (1970) Stephen Sondheim  
(b. 1930)  
Victoria Jelstrom Swilley

Sondheim captured my imagination with this soaring melody and true lyrics sung by a cynical man learning about the nature of marriage and ready to begin the search for his mate. This piece closes *Company* and it felt like a natural choice for a "coda" of sorts to my recital. This song is dedicated to my husband, who "sit[s] in my chair and ruin[s] my sleep" but without whom I would be "alone, not alive".

Finale and Bows  
Music from *Chicago* and *Fosse* soundtracks  
To God be the Glory!

I hope you have enjoyed the production. Please come enjoy the reception and greet the performers after the finale.

**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC FACULTY AND STAFF**

Dr. Stephen Sachs, pianist, chair; Dr. Paxton Girtmon, director of bands, woodwind specialist;  
Dr. Andrew Sauerwein, composer, theorist; Dr. Christopher Shelt, coordinator of vocal activities, director of choral ensembles, Song Xie, violinist, director of string ensembles; Nancy Bateman, cello adjunct; Dennis Bonds, jazz guitar adjunct; Richard Brown, string bass adjunct; Melvin Champ, assistant band director adjunct; Sybil Cheesman, flute adjunct; Dr. Dennis Cranford, music theory adjunct; Lisa Davis, French horn adjunct; Mark Davis, low brass adjunct;  
Dr. David Dick, music theory and trombone adjunct; Judy Dodson, clarinet adjunct; Carol Durham, organ adjunct;  
Gena Everitt, vocal adjunct;  
Dr. Rebecca Geihlsler, vocal adjunct; Recca Girtmon, drill team instructor adjunct; Anne Gray, vocal adjunct; Barry Hause, classical guitar adjunct, director of guitar ensembles; Paul Heindl, percussion adjunct, director of percussion ensembles; Andrew Lewis, piano adjunct, Randy Mapes, double reed adjunct; Ana Catalina Ramirez, clarinet adjunct;  
Anne Katherine Ragsdale, piano adjunct,  
Elizabeth Richardson, vocal adjunct; Carolyn Sachs, piano adjunct, Singing Christmas Tree director; Nicole Harwell, staff accompanist; Lloyd Turner, trumpet adjunct; Rodney Vaughn, vocal adjunct;  
Dr. Brenda Wilder, piano adjunct; Karen Johnston, administrative assistant

**BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, OUR MUSIC MAJORS!**

Erin Desmond Andrus, Joel Andrus, Michael Baker, David Barfield, Kimberly Barry, Bethany Basham, Jacqueline Bateman, Damien Bone, Luke Bowers, Sarah Bravo, Skyler Bready, Jimmy Brown, Shellie Brown, Thomas Callen, Chris Carlson, Andrew Craig, Hannah Cross, Abigail Crumley, Anna Cullnane, Eleana Davis, Hannah Davis, John Farrar, Matthew Forester, Alice Grimwood, Michael Hall, Joshua Harton, Blakeney Hatcliff, Amanda Hester, Daniel Hicks, Ellie Honea, Ann Howard, Emmerly Jefferson, Sam Johnson, Daniel Johnston, Sarah Jones, Temperance Jones, Alicia Kleeves, Rebeka Larson, Lavuntae Lashley, Malcom LaTour, Joshua Lee, Suzannah Martin, John Mathieu, Joseph McCullough, William Anthony Peacock, Lauren Pratt, Rachel Reese, Roberta Sachs, Victoria Senete, Michael Shofner, Grace Slowik, Zachary Stafford, Stefanie Stoll, Victoria Jelstrom Swilley, Hannah Thomas, Sarah Valle, Zak Valle, Larry Walker, Julia Watkins, James White, Abby Wiggins, Jonathan Winborne, Jocelyn Zhu

**BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, DECEMBER 2009 GRADUATES!**

Ann Johnson, Johanna Rossman, Valerie Tate

**BELHAVEN  
UNIVERSITY**

DEPARTMENT  
OF MUSIC  
*presents*

# Victoria Jelstrom Swilley

Nicole Harwell, Accompanist



## in "I Can't Do It Alone"

*A student-directed revue*

*Featuring the talents of*

Christina Alexandersen

Elizabeth Borst

Sarah Bravo

Chris Carlson

Andrew Craig

Alice Grimwood

Ann Boswell Johnson

Temperance Jones

Rebeka Larson

John Mathieu

Lauren Rutledge

Valerie Tate

Dennis Williams

*Guest appearance by faculty member*

*Dr. Christopher Shelt*

**Including songs from**

**Avenue Q**

**Beauty and the Beast**

**Cats**

**Company**

**Spamalot**

**Wicked**

**and more!**

# A Musical Theatre Senior Project

**Tuesday, April 27, 2010**  
**7:30 pm**

*Complimentary admission • Reception to follow*

Belhaven University  
Center for the Arts  
Concert Hall  
835 Riverside Drive, Jackson

**For more information  
please call 601-974-6494**