



Watch on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/IQUToBHO3Bq>

In celebration of Music in Our Schools Month 2021, the North Carolina Music Educators Association is proud to announce the publication of the NCMEA Virtual Choir Performance of NC Composer Adam Mitchell's "***We Rise!***" The choir includes one hundred NC Student Vocalists from Elementary, Middle and High Schools from the Mountains to the Sea! Teachers from every NCMEA District participated in this collaborative effort to engage, connect and inspire children and communities through song. Country Music Association Board Member, Biff Watson, recorded the beautiful guitar accompaniment! The voices are bonded together through the skillful Virtual Choir craft of Liz May of SoundLizzard Productions. Yes, our dream is to gather and sing together, so that our beautiful harmonies can blend into one gorgeous sound that floats throughout the room. Until then, creating opportunities to sing with others, to unite in song virtually, can help to fill our hearts with music.

NCMEA “We Rise” Educators and Participants

Stephanie Peo, E.B. Aycock Middle,
J.H. Rose High School
Beth Coldiron, Bailey Middle School
Allison Keisler, Bandys High School
Amanda Hoke, Blair Elementary School
Charles Burchill, Brevard High School
James Markey, Brevard Middle School
Adam Mitchell, Cash Elementary School
Ann Meigs, Clayton High School
Sarah Fawn McLamb, Corinth Holders
High School
Joanna Metcalf, Crain’s Creek Middle
School
Joy Shreckengost, Dixon Middle School
Lauren Hallihan, Enloe Magnet High
School
Carol Earnhardt, Glenn High School
Allen Botwick, Green Hope High School
Megan Yohman, Hunter GT/AIG Magnet
Elementary School
Angela Mangum, Mangum’s Music
Eddie Adams, Millbrook High School
Ashley Brady, North Davidson High
School
Cindy Clark, Oxford Preparatory Lower
School

Alexandra Sims, Parkwood High School
Denette Staley, Piney Grove Elementary
School
Zadda Bazy, Queens Creek
Elementary School
Aleisa Baker, T C Roberson High
School
Jeremy Whitener, Sherrills Ford
Elementary School
Mary Epperson, Sherwood Forest
Elementary School
Angel Rudd, Southeast Middle School
Samantha Collins, Springmore
Elementary School
Lindsay Williams, Swansboro
Elementary School
Kathleen Nelson, Trinity Academy
Lower School
Rose Everett, Trinity Academy Upper
School
Lillie Allmond Harris, Union Hill
Elementary School
Sarah Gray, Wesleyan Christian
Academy

Additional Schools Represented:

Granville Early College High School, South Point High School, Tar River Academy

Elementary Vocalists

Adalyn *	Ella *	Luci	Samya
Ahlirra	Emerson	Marley	Sienna
Anneliese	Hannah *	Michael	Sifa
Ashlyn	Heidi	Myia	Will *
Brody	Jacek	Olivia *	
Cela *	Kylee *	Ollie	
Cora *	Leah	Riley	

*Featured singer

Middle School Vocalists

Adyson	Callie	Lillian	Thomas
Alara	Darcy	Lilly	Travis
Austin	Hallie	Lily	Tyler
Bekengi	Julia	Madelyn	Usher
Brooke	Lauren	Nevaeh	

High School Vocalists

Abigail	Faith	Kailee	Noah
Amelia	Gabriel	Kathleen	Rayna
Brennen	Gannon	Keely	Samantha
Caitlyn	Grace	Kendall	Skylar
Chloe	Grace	Lenora	Sophia
Claire	Harrison	Logan	Sophia
Eda	Haynes	Logan	Spencer
EI	Hector	Luna	Stephen
Ella	Jamie	Madison	Tevin
Ellie	Jase	Maria	Tyler
Emma	Jaydon	Mariangel	William
Emma	John	Matthew	
Erika	Josh	Moises	
Ethan	Julia	Nico	
Ethan	Kaeley		

MIOSM Virtual Choir Project Team

Project Lead: Angela Mangum, Music In Our Schools Month Chair

Practice Video and Audio Tracks: Adam Mitchell, Eddie Adams, Angela Mangum

Carol Earnhardt, NCMEA President

Jazzmone Sutton, NCMEA Immediate Past President

Howie Ledford, NCMEA Technology Chair

Kathy Smith, NCMEA Elementary Honors Chorus Co-Chair

Pat Hall, NCMEA Executive Director

Mark Healy, NCMEA Communications Manager

Consultants: Tiffany Kerns, CMA Foundation

Tonya Allison, NCMEA District 5 President

Sarah Fawn McLamb, NCMEA High School All State Chair

Tenessa Martin, QuaverEd Teacher Ambassador



Music & lyrics for *We Rise* were composed by Adam Mitchell, Music Teacher at Cash Elementary School, Kernersville, NC. Mr. Mitchell is a native of Wilmington, N.C. and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he earned a Bachelor of Music with a concentration in Voice and Music Education. He is currently the general music teacher at Cash Elementary where he teaches kindergarten through fifth grade music, and is the founding director of the Cash Elementary Cougar Chorus.

Hear the [Kernersville Virtual Choir performance of "We Rise"](#) on YouTube. Also, *We Rise* is available to purchase at [J. W. Pepper](#).



Biff Watson, Nashville Studio Musician and member of the Country Music Association Board of Directors recorded the guitar accompaniment and created the beautiful audio mix for *We Rise* for NCMEA's celebration of MIOSM®. Biff has been involved since 1971 in the Nashville music industry as a session musician, producer, writer, publisher and manager. He has been featured in *Guitar Player*, *Guitar World* and *MIX* magazines and is a two-time Academy of Country Music nominee for Guitar Player of the Year. Learn more about him at his website <https://biffwatson.com>



SoundLizzard Productions, LLC sponsored and produced the NCMEA *We Rise* virtual choir performance.

SoundLizzard is a production company based in the heart of the Triad in NC that works closely with musicians, designers, artists, and organizations in live production, recording projects, film and video projects, festivals and events, and equipment training and optimization. SLP collaborates with other independent businesses and freelancers to complete complex projects to execute a high quality product with a quick completion time. Founded in 2003 as a live sound and on-location recording business, SLP has a well-respected history of fostering partnerships and setting their clients up for success.

SLP recently launched a sister company called **TRAINcycle** (2020) which hosts educational training opportunities for those studying or working in the arts and entertainment industry bridging a connection to industry professionals.

facebook.com/soundlizzard | traincycle.org

NCMEA continues to support the engagement of students through singing! "**We Rise**" has flexible voicing, so students can enjoy singing the melodic line independently with its inspirational message, or engage in part-singing. Digital resources, including conducting tracks with part-specific vocal support and embedded scores, audio rehearsal and performance tracks, full scores and extracted parts are available at <https://www.ncmea.net/programs/music-in-our-schools-month-miosm/>. Adam Mitchell has granted access to these resources for NC educators **through the end of APRIL 2021**.

Permissions for sharing virtual performances (classroom / in-person/ school, county, district virtual choir) have been granted as stated below:

Digital performances of *We Rise* may be posted or shared within your school community and on social media. Please tag **@adamusicman**, **#NCMEA**, **#MIOSM** and **#KernersvilleVirtualChoirProject**. Permissions are also hereby granted to post performances to YouTube. If you have any questions specific to copyright, please contact the composer at kernersvillevcp2020@gmail.com.