

Choir of the West Releases Recording of Choral Works by Celebrated Composer Ēriks Ešenvalds on Signum Records

(Friday, January 17, 2020—TACOMA, Wash) The premiere choral ensemble at Pacific Lutheran University, the **Choir of the West**, has released a new album of 14 tracks of exquisite music titled “There Will Come Soft Rains.” It celebrates 13 years of the career of world-renowned Latvian composer **Ēriks Ešenvalds**. This is the Choir’s first collaboration with UK record company **Signum Records**, a leading independent British label that specializes in classical music. The album is available now online to buy or stream from all major music providers.

The School of Arts and Communication is extremely proud of the high caliber of work by students in the **Department of Music**. **Dr. Brian Galante**, Chair of the Department of Music, stated, “This album showcases the talent, musicianship, and professionalism that PLU students consistently demonstrate. We are so very proud to collaborate with a world-class record label to spotlight our students, conductor **Dr. Richard Nance** and Ešenvalds’ evocative music.”

The Choir of the West was founded in 1926 and is comprised of undergraduate students from a variety of academic disciplines who are chosen through a rigorous audition. The Choir performs several concerts each year and tours frequently. Conductor Dr. Richard Nance leads the Choir and serves as Director of Choral Activities at PLU.

Choir of the West was the third Lutheran college choir to tour extensively throughout the United States and has performed in Europe, Scandinavia, Japan and China. The Choir has appeared at several regional and national conferences of the National Association for Music Education, the American Choral Directors Association, and the National Collegiate Choral Organization. Choir of the West has competed at the Anton Bruckner Choir Competition in Linz, Austria and the prestigious Harmonie Festival in Lindenholzhausen, Germany, winning two gold certificates and one silver.

Ēriks Ešenvalds a leading composer with a busy commission schedule and performances of his music on every continent. After study at the Latvian Baptist Theological Seminary and the Latvian Academy of Music, he was a member of the State Choir Latvija and later awarded a two-year position of Fellow Commoner in Creative Arts at Trinity College, University of Cambridge. Ešenvalds has won multiple awards for his work and undertakes many international residencies working on his music and lecturing. His compositions appear on recordings from Trinity College Choir, Cambridge on Hyperion, Portland State Chamber Choir on Naxos, Latvian Radio Choir and Sinfonietta Riga on Ondine, ORA on Harmonia Mundi, and VOCES8 on Decca Classics,

among others. Ešēnvalds has had award-winning works premiered by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Recent premieres include “Lakes Awake at Dawn,” “Whispers on the Prairie Wind,” “St. Luke Passion” and the major multimedia symphony “Nordic Light” which had its North American debut at PLU before further performances in Canada and Germany. His full-scale opera “The Immured” was premiered at the Latvian National Opera in 2016 to great acclaim. Ešēnvalds’ writing continues with commissions from the Gewandhaus Leipzig and Grant Park Music Festival Chicago. 2018 saw the premiere of “Volcano Symphony” — his second multimedia symphony — by Latvian Symphony Orchestra and State Choir Latvija.

THERE WILL COME SOFT RAINS TRACK LISTING

1. There Will Come Soft Rains
2. New Moon
3. Long Road
4. Rivers of Light
5. Northern Lights
6. Only in Sleep
7. O, She Doth Teach The Torches To Burn Bright
8. A Soldier’s Mother’s Lullaby
9. Spring Rain
10. My Little Picture Frame
11. Evening
12. My Luve Is Like A Red, Red Rose
13. Stars
14. Amazing Grace

The album is released worldwide by Signum Records on January 17, 2020
Catalogue Number: SIGCD603 / UPC: 635212060322

To learn more about the album, including to download photos, please visit www.plu.edu/sofrains. Reviewers and music media companies may listen to the album in full at <https://promo.theorchard.com/8fD1NreMcS3OtYbMRM3j>. To purchase or stream the album from your preferred music provider, please visit <http://smarturl.it/PLCW>.

For additional information, call the Department of Music at 253.535.7602 or music@plu.edu.



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About The School of Arts and Communication

The School of Arts and Communication at Pacific Lutheran University houses the Departments of Art & Design, Communication, Music, and Theatre & Dance and presents more than 250 events each season. The School is a community of artists and scholars — students, faculty, and

staff — dedicated to the fulfillment of the human spirit through creative expression and careful scholarship. The School offers professional education to artists and communicators within the framework of a liberal arts education.

About Pacific Lutheran University

PLU seeks to educate students for lives of thoughtful inquiry, service, leadership and care — for other people, for their communities and for the Earth. The university purposefully integrates the liberal arts, professional studies and civic engagement in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. With distinctive international programs and collaborative student-faculty research opportunities, PLU helps its 3,100 students from all faiths and backgrounds discern their life's vocation through coursework, mentorship and internships at world-class Puget Sound-area businesses and institutions.

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