

2024 WINTER TOUR

JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 8

Nevada | Arizona | California | Washington

The
CHOIR
of the **WEST**

2024 Tour | "The Gift to Sing"

PLU | SCHOOL OF
MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE

The CHOIR of the WEST

Brian Galante, conductor

PROGRAM

to be selected from the following

I.

A Mighty Fortress is Our God..... Martin Luther (1483-1546)
arr. W.B. Olds

II.

“Richte mich, Gott” Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)
from *Drei Psalmen*, op. 78 German text, Psalm 43

*Judge me, O God, and lead my cause against the unholy nation
and deliver me from the deceitful and malicious people!
For you are the God of my strength. Why do you cast me away?
Why do you let me be so sorrowful when my foe oppresses me?
Send your light and your truth, that they might lead me
and bring me to your holy mountain and to your dwelling
that I might enter unto the altar of God, to the God who is my joy and my delight,
and give thanks to you, my God, on the harp.
Why are you so troubled, my soul, and why are you so restless within me?
Hope in God! For I will still give thanks to him
because he is the salvation of my countenance and my God.*

III.

Ave Verum Corpus William Byrd (1543-1623)

Ave Verum Corpus Re-imagined (2020).....Roderick Williams
Latin text, Eucharistic hymn for the Feast of Corpus Christi
Yakov Lychik or Zyreal Oliver-Chandler, *tenor soloist*

*Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary,
truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for humankind,
from whose pierced side flowed blood:
let us taste of thee in the trial of death.
O sweet, O gentle, O Jesus, son of Mary,
have mercy on me. Amen.*

IV.

A Journey of Your Own (2022) Saunder Choi
English text by Brian Sonia-Wallace, Tagalog text by Joey Vargas

Look up, call everywhere heaven,
A journey's a name you can claim as your own.
Journey on, and keep crossing oceans
—an ocean's a mirror: no happy hereafter,
just the here than you've sown.
A journey of your own.

*every one comes and goes
going to wherever
one goes, to the end;
the journey is a search,
a search for a destination —*

Journey on, and keep crossing oceans
—an ocean's a mirror. Search for somewhere
to name as your own. Look ahead,
call everywhere heaven: no happy hereafter,
just the here that you've grown.
A journey of your own.

*a search for a destination
of the journey, of the search;
reaching the end: again,
everyone comes and goes.*

My Heart Be Brave (2022) Marques L.A. Garrett
poetry by James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

V.

Plaudite, Psallite (2022)..... Kęstutis Daugirdas
Latin text, from Psalms

*Clap (your hands), sing praises, rejoice in God, all the earth—Alleluia.
Let all the nations bless the Lord, joining in his praises—Alleluia.
For the Lord has shown mercy on us—Alleluia.
And he has led the captive from captivity, wonderful and glorious for (all) ages—Alleluia.*

BRIEF INTERMISSION

VI.

Jubilare Deo (2016)..... Brian Edward Galante
Latin text, adapted from the *Liber Usualis* and *Book of Common Prayer*

*Jubilare Deo!
Jubilare Deo omnis terra!
O be joyful! Serve the Lord with gladness;
Come before his presence with a song.
Know this: the Lord himself is God;
He himself has made us, and we are his.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, into his courts with praise!
For the Lord is good;
His mercy everlasting;
His faithfulness endures from ages to age.
Jubilare Deo!*



VII.

The Children's Eye (2016) Caroline Shaw
poetry by Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)
Caitlyn Babcock or Abigail Thompson, *soloist*

Summer fading, winter comes—
Frosty mornings, tingling thumbs
Window robins, winter rooks,
And the picture story-books.

How am I to sing your praise,
Happy chimney-corner days,
Sitting safe in nursery nooks,
Reading picture story-books?

Water now is turned to stone
Nurse and I can walk upon;
Still we find the flowing brooks
In the picture story-books.

*O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the
Most High,
reaching from one end to the other mightily,
and sweetly ordering all things:
Come and teach us the way of prudence.*

All the pretty things put by,
Wait upon the children's eye,
Sheep and shepherds, trees and crooks,
In the picture story-books.

—Latin, from 'O Antiphons', 7th century

We may see how all things are,
Seas and cities, near and far,
And the flying fairies' looks,
In the picture story-books.

VIII.

The Gift to Sing (2023) Damien Geter
poetry by James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

Sometimes the mist overhangs my path,
And blackening clouds about me cling;
But, oh, I have a magic way
To turn the gloom to cheerful day—
I softly sing.

And if the way grows darker still,
Shadowed by Sorrow's somber wing,
With glad defiance in my throat,
I pierce the darkness with a note,
And sing, and sing.

I brood not over the broken past,
Nor dread whatever time may bring;
No nights are dark, no days are long,
While in my heart there swells a song,
And I can sing.



IX.

Tiptipa Kemmakem (2015)..... Nilo Alcala
Traditional spoken rhyme from Bontoc, Philippines

Rotaļa (1991) Juris Karlsons
text (“Round Dance”) by Jānis Rainis

*Vidu! To the middle!
One came, the other went,
One lets go, another waves, vidu!
The outstretched hand is not yet grabbed,
You already swing along in a circle, vidu!
Freely, freely the days spin,
Hither, thither, part and join your hands,
Further joining, further swaying, vidu!
Freely, freely swirl around!*

X.

Beautiful Savior Silesian Folk Song
arr. F. Melius Christiansen/adapt. Brian Galante

The
CHOIR
of the WEST



The CHOIR of the WEST

The Choir of the West is the premier choral ensemble at Pacific Lutheran University, located in Tacoma, Washington. Founded in 1926, the choir was the third Lutheran college choir to tour extensively throughout the United States. Choir of the West has toured Europe, Scandinavia, Japan and China, and has performed at several state, division and national conferences of the National Association for Music Education and the American Choral Directors Association. Most recently the choir has been selected to perform at the Northwestern Region ACDA conference in 2022 (Spokane, Washington). Choir of the West gave a highly acclaimed performance at the 2013 ACDA National Conference held in Dallas, which included premieres of the works *Northern Lights* by Latvian composer Ēriks Ešenvalds, and *Exsultate* by current conductor Brian Galante. The choir was invited to perform a featured concert at the 2015 National Collegiate Choral Organization Conference under the direction of headliner Simon Carrington. Choir of the West won two gold awards at the 2011 Harmonie Festival in Lindenhofshausen, Germany, and won two categories at the 2015 Anton Bruckner Competition in Linz, Austria. The choir was awarded the Anton Bruckner Prize as the most outstanding ensemble in the competition.

Choir of the West regularly participates in premieres of important new works, most recently, the chamber version of JAC Redford's *Homing*, the North American premiere of Ēriks Ešenvalds' *Nordic Light Symphony* (2017) and Sven-David Sandström's *Matthauspassion* (2016). In April of 2018 the choir spent a week with Ešenvalds in residence at PLU, collaborating to record a new compact disc of his unaccompanied works entitled *There Will Come Soft Rains*, which was released on the Signum Classics label in January of 2020. This album has received accolades in numerous reviews.

The Choir of the West is comprised of undergraduate students from a variety of academic disciplines. The choir performs several concerts each year, including shared programs with other PLU ensembles, the annual series of five Christmas Concerts (filmed for broadcast on PBS in 2015), and campus celebratory events. The choir tours domestically in three out of four years, and once every four years tours internationally.

BRIAN GALANTE, CONDUCTOR



Brian Galante is Associate Dean for the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, and Director of Choral Studies at PLU. In Fall 2022, he became the seventh conductor of the Choir of the West. During his time at PLU, Dr. Galante also conducted Chorale, University Singers (SA), and Knights Chorus (TB), and taught undergraduate courses in Vocal Pedagogy for the Choral Music Educator, Choral Methods and Choral Literature.

Dr. Galante continues to find success and acclaim as a composer and arranger. His compositions are published by GalanteMusic, Walton, Colla Voce Music, and Pavane Publishing; have been performed by professional, collegiate, and advanced high school choirs throughout the United States and Europe; and recorded for commercial release by Delos, Centaur Records, MSR Classic, and PLU Media. He is the recipient of multiple ASCAP Plus awards, and a regular composer-in-residence for the Taylor Festival Choir (Charleston, SC).

Galante received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting, with a related field in Voice Science and Pedagogy, from the University of North Texas. He holds Master of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees from Louisiana State University. Previous choral appointments include Visiting Associate Director of Choral Studies at Louisiana State University; Conductor of the UNT Men's Chorus and Conducting Associate of the UNT A Cappella Choir; Director of Choral Music/Coordinator of K-12 Music at Highland Park High School, Dallas, Texas; Director of Choirs at Episcopal High School and Director of Music at St. Louis King of France Catholic Church, both in Baton Rouge.

Choirs under Galante's direction have offered invitational performances in Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, New York; the Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas; Notre Dame Cathedral and Sacre Coeur, Paris; the 2010 Washington Music Educators Association conference; the 2011 Northwest MENC Conference; and the 2012 Northwest Division ACDA Conference.

Frequently in demand as a clinician and adjudicator, Galante has conducted honor choirs at all levels. remains an active member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), National Collegiate Choral Organization (NCCO), the American Society for Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), Washington ACDA, and the Washington Music Educators Association. He served as President of the Northwestern ACDA Region from 2018-2020, Conference Chair of the 2020 Northwestern ACDA Region Conference, Program Chair of the 2010 and 2018 Conferences, on the National ACDA Technology Committee (2007-2011), Associate Conference Chair of the 2013 National ACDA Conference, and President of Louisiana ACDA from 2001-2003.

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

Pacific Lutheran University is located six miles south of Tacoma, in suburban Parkland, Washington, on a 156-acre woodland campus. PLU offers approximately 2,600 students a unique blend of academically rigorous liberal arts and professional programs. Students develop skills in decision making, analysis, communication and reasoning that prepare them for a lifetime of success – both in their careers and in service to others. PLU is dedicated to developing ethical, educated, thinking leaders by challenging students to identify and ask questions of meaning and value in their own lives. Students are asked to explore their passions and purpose in life, and to uphold the university's Lutheran heritage and commitment to academic excellence and academic freedom. PLU fosters in all students a global perspective, including an understanding of the intercultural and intellectual richness of the world and their roles as world citizens. The University includes the College of Health Professions, the College of Liberal Studies, the College of Natural Sciences, and the College of Professional Studies. Undergraduate students may choose from a variety of majors and minors, and graduate degrees are offered in business administration, creative writing, education, finance, marketing research, marriage and family therapy, and nursing.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE

The PLU School of Music, Theatre & Dance is a nationally recognized center for musical performance, education, and community. From early in the morning to late at night students are practicing, studying, collaborating, and sharing their passion for musical growth. The SMTD offers Music degrees in performance (instrumental, organ, piano, vocal), music education (K-12 Band, Choir, and Orchestra), composition, musical arts, and liberal arts in music, plus BFA degrees in theatre (acting/directing, design/technical) and musical theatre.

The Mary Baker Russell Music Center, an architectural and acoustical jewel on the PLU campus, houses the exquisite Lagerquist Concert Hall, spectacular Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Organ, and impressive rehearsal and classroom facilities. Our faculty—exceptional performers, composers, authors, and educators—consistently demonstrate artistry and musical leadership, dedication to nurturing talent, fostering an inclusive learning environment, and encouraging musical opportunities for all students.



SOPRANO

Caroline Bergren*
Molly Bliss
Erin Burson
Caitlyn Carnahan
Hannah McVay
Emily Morse
Ellie O'Brien^
Kristen Ronning
Allie Watkins

ALTO

Caitlyn Babcock^
Sophia Barkhurst
Lillian Gundersen
Jessica Heinauer
Meghan Johnson
Marissa McBride
Kyla Rivera
Abigail Thompson

TENOR

Joel Barkman
Jake Kesling
Yakov Lychik^
Spencer McCray
Zyreal Oliver-Chandler
Jacob Ray
Dane Schmidt
Allen Tugade

BASS

Daniel Beck
Jack Burrows
Robert Cope-Powell
Glen Fritz^
Jonathan Holder
Kody Smith
Isaiah Utto-Galarneau
Dominic Walker

* Choir of the West President

^ Section Leader

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MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE

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