

The Choir of the West
2023 Spring Tour

April 20-25, 2023
Portland, OR • Salem, OR • Tacoma, WA

Pacific Lutheran University
College of Professional Studies / Department of Music presents

The Choir of the West

Brian Galante, *conductor*

Amy Boers, *piano*

Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 7:30pm
St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Portland, OR

Friday, April 21, 2023, at 7:30pm
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Salem, OR

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 7:30pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center

Please disable the audible signal on all watches and cellular phones for the duration of the concert.
Use of cameras, recording equipment and all digital devices is not permitted.

PROGRAM

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

Ave Maris Stella **Trond Kverno (b. 1945)**

Hail ocean's star, God's mother dear, likewise ever a virgin, blest heavenly gate. Receiving that Ave from Gabriel's lips, settle us in peace, reversing Eva's name. Loose their chains for the guilty, bring forth Light for the blind: woes of ours dispel, good in all things ask for us. Show thyself to be a mother: may he receive through you our prayers, who for us was born and deigned to be your son. Virgin all excelling, among all the meek, set us free from sin, make us meek and chaste. Bestow on us life that is pure, prepare a way that is safe in order that seeing Jesus we may always rejoice. Praise be to God the Father, to most high Christ be praise, and to the Holy Spirit, to the three be honor equally. Amen.

[9th Century Vesper Hymn with Versicle]

and the swallow **Caroline Shaw (b. 1982)**

*how beloved is your dwelling place, o lord of hosts
my soul yearns
faints
my heart and my flesh cry out
the sparrow found a house,
and the swallow, her nest,
where she may raise her young
they pass through the valley of bakka
they make it a place of springs
the autumn rains also cover it with pools
[Psalm 84, adapted by the composer]*

Poems by e.e. cummings

I.

love is the every only god

who spoke this earth so glad and big
even a thing all small and sad
man,may his mighty briefness dig

for love beginning means return
seas who could sing so deep and strong

one querying wave will whitely yearn
from each last shore and home come young

so truly perfectly the skies
by merciful love whispered were,
completes its brightness with your eyes

any illimitable star

III.

lady will you come with me into
the extremely little house of
my mind. Clocks strike. The

moon's round,through the window

as you see and really i have no
servants. We could almost live

at the top of these stairs,there's a free
room. We almost could go(you
and i)into a together whitely big
there is but if so or so

slowly i opened the window a
most tinyness,the moon(with white wig
and polished buttons)would take you away

—and all the clocks would run down the next day.

II.

what time is it?it is by every star
a different time,and each most falsely true;
or so subhuman superminds declare

—nor all their times encompass me and you:

when are we never,but forever now
(hosts of eternity;not guests of seem)
believe me,dear,clocks have enough to do

without confusing timelessness and time.

Time cannot children,poets,lovers tell—
measure imagine,mystery,a kiss
—not though mankind would rather know than feel;

mistrusting utterly that timelessness

whose absence would make your whole life and my
(and infinite our)merely to undie

IV.

white guardians of the universe of sleep

safely may by imperishable your
glory escorted through infinite countries be
my darling(open the very secret of hope
to her eyes,not any longer blinded with
a world;and let her heart's each whisper wear

all never guessed unknowable most joy)

faithfully blossoming beyond to breathe
suns of the night,bring this beautiful
wanderer home to a dream called time:and give
herself into the mercy of that star,
if out of climbing whom begins to spill
such golden blood as makes his moon alive

sing more will wonderfully birds than are

V.

now that,more nearest even than your fate

and mine(or any truth beyond perceive)
quivers this miracle of summer night

her trillion secrets touchably alive

—while and all mysteries which i or you
(blinded by merely things believable)
could only fancy we should never know

are unimaginably ours to feel—

how should some world(we marvel)doubt,for just
sweet terrifying the particular
moment it takes one very falling most
(there:did you see it?)star to disappear,

that hugest whole creation may be less
incalculable than a single kiss

VI.

silently if,out of not knowable
night's utmost nothing,wanders a little guess
(only which is this world)more my life does
not leap than with the mystery your smile

sings or if(spiralling as luminous
they climb oblivion)voices who are dreams,
less into heaven certainly earth swims
than each my deeper death becomes your kiss

losing through you what seemed myself,i find
selves unimaginably mine;beyond
sorrow's own joys and hoping's very fears

yours is the light by which my spirit's born:
yours is the darkness of my soul's return
—you are my sun,my moon,and all my stars

INTERMISSION

Schaffe in mir, Gott, op. 29, no. 2Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Create in me, God, a clean heart, and give me a new confident spirit. Cast me not from your presence and take your spirit from me. Console me again with your presence, and the joyful spirit uphold me.
[Psalm 51: 10-12 (Luther)]

For You I Will Be an Island Jennifer Lucy Cook

A Prayer Ken Burton (b. 1970)

Lindsey Hansen or Kayla Linquist, *soloist*

Come to the Woods Jake Runestad (b. 1986)

THE CHOIR

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 also 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 was selected to perform at the 2022 Northwestern Region ACDA Conference (Spokane, WA). Choir of the West also 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 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 Lindenholzhausen, 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.

SOPRANO

Madison Ashley
Caroline Bergren
Molly Bliss
Lindsey Hansen
Kayla Linquist
Daniella Papirnik
Annika Peterson
Hailey Wharton

ALTO

Olivia Bentley
Caitlyn Carnahan
Emma Christensen
Lillian Gundersen
Meghan Johnson
Maria-Viktoria Kovalsky
Kyla Rivera
Abigail Thompson

TENOR

Lennon Green
Jake Kesling
Trevor Kytola
Yakov Lychik
Kenneth Prince
Jacob Ray
Dane Schmidt
Jacqueline Wray

BASS

Daniel Beck
Caimin Boland
Jack Burrows
Glen Fritz
Trevor Hansen
Arthur Keast
Ryan Shane
Dominic Walker

THE CONDUCTOR

Brian Galante is Chair of the Department of Music and Director of Choral Studies at Pacific Lutheran. In Fall 2022, he became the seventh conductor of the PLU Choir of the West. Before taking on his administrative responsibilities in 2018, Galante also conducted Chorale (SATB), University Singers (SA) and Knights Chorus (TB), and taught undergraduate courses in Vocal Pedagogy for the Choral Music Educator, Choral Methods, and Choral Literature.

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 University of North Texas 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 for the 2010 Washington Music Educators Association conference (PLU Chorale); the 2011 Northwest MENC Conference (PLU Knights Chorus); and the 2012 Northwest Region ACDA Conference (PLU Chorale). He has conducted honor choirs at all levels, and led workshops on conducting pedagogy, voice science, and repertoire.

In addition, Galante is an accomplished composer and arranger. His compositions are published by Galante Music, Walton Music, and Colla Voce Music, and have been performed by choirs of all levels throughout the United States and Europe. Galante's works have recorded for commercial release by Delos, Centaur Records, and MSR Classic. He is the recipient of multiple ASCAP Plus awards, and a regular composer-in-residence for the Taylor Festival Choir (Charleston, SC).

Galante has been an active member of ACDA since 1997. He served as President of Louisiana ACDA (2001-2003), on the National Technology Committee (2007-2011), Honor Choir Performance Site Chair (Oklahoma City, 2009), Northwestern Region Conference Program Chair (Seattle, 2010; Portland, 2018), Transportation Coordinator (Chicago, 2011), Associate Conference Chair (Dallas, 2013), and Northwestern Region President (2018-2020). He is also a member of the American Society for Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP), the National Collegiate Choral Organization (NCCO), and the Washington Music Educators Association.

THE PIANIST

Amy E. Boers is known in the greater Seattle-Tacoma area as a collaborative keyboardist, vocalist, conductor, and church musician. A lifelong resident of this area, she received her Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Central Washington University. Her keyboard playing for conductors and soloists has been characterized as deeply expressive, artistic, and insightfully supportive. As choral conductor, Boers has adjudicated large ensemble festivals across the region and has led workshops in Canada on "Collaborative work in the Choral rehearsal". With her husband Geoffrey, she is Co-Minister of Music at Grace Lutheran Church, Des Moines. As pianist, Boers is currently serving positions at PLU, Symphony Tacoma, and Symphony Tacoma Voices as well as many regional conventions and festivals. At PLU, she served as Musical Director for two productions in the 2022-2023 season. Boers continues to tour throughout Europe with choral ensembles, most recently to Spain and Portugal, where she will return to perform in 2023.

The CHOIR *of the* WEST

For more information about the PLU Department of Music
and singing at PLU, please visit
plu.edu/music.