



**Choral Union
Tour Ensemble**
Croatia 2023

Dubrovnik 🌻 Korčula 🌻 Hvar 🌻 Split 🌻 Rovinj

June 28 - July 13, 2023



Good evening, and welcome to our program!

We are thrilled to be touring beautiful Croatia, with stops along the Dalmatian coast and the Istrian peninsula. We appreciate you spending a part of your day with us, and we hope to visit with you after our concert.

Pacific Lutheran University is a liberal arts institution located in Tacoma, Washington (USA), about 30 miles south of Seattle, in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. **Choral Union** is a community chorus affiliated with PLU's renowned School of Music, Theater and Dance. The choir has a full membership of 60-70 singers, including alumni, students, and people from the surrounding community. Most of the members of the choir have collegiate singing experience. Choral Union has performed at prestigious choral music conferences, and in 2011 was awarded the "American Prize" for outstanding recorded performance by a community chorus.



The **Choral Union Tour Ensemble** travels every three years. Past tours have included visits to Austria, the Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, and Switzerland. This is our second tour to Croatia. The choir has performed at the World Harp Congress (Geneva, Switzerland), the Cambridge (UK) Summer Music Festival, and Festival Bled (Slovenia). In 2014 the choir won the large mixed chorus and sacred music categories at the Florence International Choral Festival.



Conductor Richard Nance spent a 30-year career at Pacific Lutheran University (1992-2022), where he directed the Choir of the West, University Singers and Choral Union. Nance's choirs have performed at two National Conferences of the American Choral Directors Association, six ACDA Division Conferences, the 2011 Harmonie Festival in Lindenhof, Germany (two gold awards and one silver), the 2014 Florence International

Choral Festival (winner in two categories and for outstanding conductor), the 2015 Anton Bruckner Choral Competition in Linz, Austria (winner in two categories and the Anton Bruckner award), and at the 2015 National Collegiate Choral Organization Conference. Nance received the 2011 and 2013 "American Prize" for Choral Conducting, and the 2013-2014 Faculty Excellence Award for Research at PLU. He has served in positions for the American Choral Directors Association and received awards for his leadership and service to the organization. Nance's choral works are published by Walton Music, Hinshaw Music and Colla Voce Music. He composed the prestigious Raymond W. Brock Commission (2002) for the American Choral Directors Association.

Tonight's program features contemporary sacred choral repertoire, highlighted by works composed specifically for this tour by members of the choir. We begin with the premiere of *Cantate Domino*, by PLU graduate and Choral Union member TJ Wheeler - an exciting, rhythmic setting of Psalm 96. Next we will sing a set of three traditional American hymns, arranged by renowned composers Alice Parker, Paul J. Christiansen and René Clausen. PLU graduate Austin Schend composed his beautiful, introspective work *Under Heaven* for this tour in 2020, prior to it being postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Next will follow another premiere, *I Am The True Vine* - a lovely, passionate work by Choral Union member Daniel Schreiner, and two motets by Basque composer Josu Elberdin - his lyrical *Ubi Caritas* and a dancelike *Cantate Domino*, which features English, Latin and Basque versions of Psalm 96. We will finish the program with Canadian composer Sarah Quartel's stirring arrangement of the American folk hymn *How Can I Keep From Singing?* and a beloved choral benediction, *The Lord Bless You And Keep You* by Peter C. Lutkin.

Please enjoy!

Program

Cantate Domino (world premiere)T.J. Wheeler (b. 1994)

Translation of Latin text: ancient salutation and Psalm 96

*The Lord be with you,
And with your spirit.*

*Sing to the Lord a new song, (all the earth)!
Sing and give praise to his name,
Sing and exult and praise;
For he has done marvelous deeds.*

Three American Folk Hymns

1. Hark, I Hear The Harps Eternal.....arr. Alice Parker (b. 1929)

Text: American folk hymn

*Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore,
As I near those swollen waters, with their deep and solemn roar.*

*Hallelujah, praise the Lamb,
Hallelujah, Glory to the great I AM.*

*And my soul though stained with sorrow, fading as the light of day,
Passes swiftly o'er those waters to the city far away.*

Hallelujah...

*Souls have crossed before me, saintly, to that land of perfect rest,
And I hear them singing faintly to the mansions of the blest.*

Hallelujah...

2. My Song In The Night.....arr. Paul J. Christiansen (1914-1997)

Text: American folk hymn

O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night,

*come to us with Thy tender love, my soul's delight.
Unto thee, O Lord, in affliction I call,
my comfort by day and my song in the night.*

*O why should I wander, an alien from Thee,
or cry in the desert Thy face to see.
My comfort and joy, my soul's delight,
O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night.*

*O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night,
come to us with Thy tender love, my soul's delight,
my comfort and joy, my soul's delight.
O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night.*

3. Simple Gifts.....arr. René Clausen (b. 1953)

Text: Shaker Tune

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.*

*When true simplicity is gained,
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed
to turn, turn will be our delight,
'till by turning, turning we come 'round right.*

Under Heaven.....Austin Schend (b. 1991)

1. Birth And Death

Text: Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

*For everything there is a season,
and a time for every purpose under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die*

2. The Setting Sun

Text from *As a Man Thinketh* by James Allen (1864-1912),
adapted by the composer)

*For those who have lived righteously,
age is soft and mellow, like the setting sun.*

3. Return To Heaven

Text from *Meditations*, by Marcus Aurelius (121-180),
adapted by the composer)

*To earth returns that which sprung from earth.
But what is of heav'nly seed returns to Heaven.*

I Am The True Vine (world premiere)Daniel Schreiner (b. 1990)

Text from John 15: 5, 9, 12

*I am the true vine, you are the branches.
If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.
As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.
This is my commandment:
that you love one another as I have loved you.*

Two Motets.....Josu Elberdin (b. 1976)

1. Ubi Caritas Et Amor

Translation of Latin text: Antiphon for Maundy Thursday

*Where charity and love are, God is there,
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice, and be pleased in him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.*

2. Cantate Domino

English:

Sing to the Lord a new song,
sing all the earth praise his name.

Translation of Latin and Basque text: Psalm 96

*Sing to the Lord a new song,
Sing to the Lord all the earth,
Joyfully fulfill his will.*

*Let us come before him with thanks.
Let us shout songs of joy to him.
Sing and praise with the harp,
Sing praises with a psalm.
For he has done wonders.*

How Can I Keep From Singingarr. Sarah Quartel (b. 1982)

Text: unattributed (adapted by the composer)

*My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentations,
I hear the real though far-off tune that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife I hear its music ringing.
It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?*

*While though the tempest loudly roars, I hear the truth, it liveth.
And though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it,
And day by day this pathway smooths since first I learned to love it.
The peace of love makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;
All things are mine in love and joy! How can I keep from singing?*

The Lord Bless You And Keep YouPeter C. Lutkin (1858-1931)

Text: Traditional Benediction, Numbers 6: 24-26

*The Lord bless you and keep you,
the Lord lift His countenance upon you; and give you peace,
the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.
Amen.*

**Pacific Lutheran University Choral Union
Tour Ensemble**

Richard Nance, Conductor

Soprano

Jonica Beatie
Sue Byrd
Lindsey Hansen
Anna Kwon
Julie Landes
Nancy Nole
Faith Ockwell
Emily Shane
Diann Spicer

Tenor

Neil Asay
Sam Brown
Tom Cameron
Eric Faris
Nicholas Gorne
Trevor Kytola
John McGilliard
John Ockwell
Roland Robinson
TJ Wheeler

Alto

Hannah Antonio
Lydia Bill
Lauren Boyles
Debbie Dion
Nicole Fife
Karen Fulmer
Debbie Hushagen
Patti Nance
Becky Purser
Janelle Purser
Anne Urlie

Bass

David Bales
Chris Berntsen
Mike Byrd
Chris Conway
Adam Freemantle
Greg Goliet
James Hushagen
Brent Johnson
Philip Nesvig
Daniel Schreiner
Ryan Shane
Larry Wiseman

Follow the PLU Choral Union on YouTube!



Austin Schend: *Under Heaven*

Austin Schend: *The Great Clear Twilight* and
Daniel Schreiner: *Cold December Flies Away*



Josu Elberdin: *Ubi Caritas* and *Cantate Domino*

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