2015 International Tour
Stockholm • Copenhagen • Prague • Linz

The Choir of the West
Pacific Lutheran University
Tacoma, Washington, USA

Richard Nance, Conductor
About the Choirs

The Choir of the West is the premier choral ensemble of the Department of Music at Pacific Lutheran University. The choir was founded in 1926, and was the third Lutheran college choir to tour extensively throughout the United States. The Choir of the West has toured to Europe, Scandinavia, Japan and China, and has been selected to appear at several regional and national conferences of the National Association for Music Education and the American Choral Directors Association. During the summer of 2011, Choir of the West competed among choirs from 47 nations at the prestigious Harmonie Festival in Lindenholzhausen, Germany, winning two gold certificates and one silver. The Choir is comprised of undergraduate students from a variety of academic disciplines. Members are chosen through a rigorous audition. The choir performs several concerts each year, including shared concerts with other PLU ensembles, the annual series of six Christmas concerts, campus ministry services, and campus celebratory events.

For more information about the Choir of the West, PLU’s music program, and to order recordings, please visit the choir’s website: www.plu.edu/choir.

The PLU Chamber Singers form a new ensemble at Pacific Lutheran University, dedicated to the performance of chamber vocal literature from the Renaissance to contemporary works. The group is comprised of eight singers from the Choir of the West, and they perform three or four programs each year.

About the University

Pacific Lutheran University is a comprehensive institution with an enrollment of approximately 3000, including international students from two-dozen countries. Located in a uniquely scenic region on the Pacific Rim, the university’s campus is 40 miles south of Seattle in suburban Tacoma, Washington. The university offers students a unique blend of academically rigorous liberal arts and professional programs that prepare them for a lifetime of success—both in their careers and in service to others. A full range of liberal arts academic programs are offered—such as psychology, history and the natural sciences—with professional study in the arts and communication, business, education, nursing, social work and physical education. Master’s degrees are offered in five fields. PLU is committed to developing in all students an understanding of the intercultural and intellectual richness of the world. More than 40 percent of students spend time studying abroad.
The Department of Music at PLU is a nationally recognized center for musical learning, serving and sharing. The Mary Baker Russell Music Center, with its exquisite Lagerquist Concert Hall and state-of-the-art rehearsal and learning facilities, brings together talented, cohesive faculty, outstanding students, and enthusiastic audiences to experience the art and industry of music. Every student at PLU who wishes to participate in exciting activities can be accommodated regardless of major. Degree programs include Bachelor of Arts (music and liberal arts), Bachelor of Musical Arts (music combined with an outside field), and Bachelor of Music (in performance or composition). The Bachelor of Music Education is offered for those intending to become music teachers in the public schools.

About the Conductor

Richard Nance is professor of music and director of choral activities at Pacific Lutheran University, where he has worked since 1992. He is conductor of the PLU Choir of the West and Choral Union, and teaches courses in choral conducting. Dr. Nance holds degrees from West Texas State University and Arizona State University. Nance has been a member of the American Choral Directors Association since 1977, and has served as president for the state of Washington and the Northwestern Division. He also served on the editorial board for the ACDA Choral Journal. Nance’s choirs have appeared at several ACDA and NAfME (National Association for Music Education) regional and national conferences, have toured in Europe several times, and have won gold awards at prestigious competitions. Phoenix, a commercial compact disc produced by the Choir of the West, placed second in the collegiate division of the 2011 American Prize competition. Under Nance’s direction, the PLU Choral Union’s 25th Anniversary Album won the 2011 American Prize for outstanding recording by a community chorus, and he received the same award for his work as conductor on that disc. He was awarded the 2013 American Prize for choral conducting for his work with the Choir of the West on the disc The Lightener of the Stars. Dr. Nance received the prestigious Raymond Brock commission by ACDA in 2002, and has written numerous commissioned works for festival, youth, high school and church choirs. His choral works are regularly performed throughout the US and abroad.
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Martin Luther (1483-1546)/arr. W.B. Olds
(sung in English)

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great;
And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not His equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side,
The man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He,
Lord Sabaoth His name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

Two Motets
Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)
(sung in Latin)

1. Vidi speciosam
I saw the fair one rising like a dove
above the streams of water:
whose priceless fragrance clung to her garments.
And as on a spring day, she was surrounded
by roses and lily-of-the-valley.
Who is this who rises from the desert like a pillar
of smoke from incense of myrrh and frankincense?
And as on a spring day, she was surrounded
by roses and lily-of-the-valley.

2. O quam gloriosum
O how glorious is the kingdom in which all the Saints rejoice with Christ,
Clad in robes of white they follow the Lamb wherever he goes.

Tota pulchra est
Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)
(sung in Latin)

Thou art all fair, O Mary,
and the stain of original sin is not in thee.
Your vestments are as white as snow,
and your face is like the sun.
Thou art the glory of Jerusalem, the joy of Israel,
and the honor of our people.

Three Motets
(sung in German and Latin)

1. Lasset uns den Herren preisen
Max Reger (1873-1916)
Let us praise the Lord, O Christians everywhere!
Come, that we may render thanks to God with sweet sound!
He who came to us from heaven is free from the bands of death,
and the lion from the tribe of Judah, Christ Jesus, is risen!

2. Os justi meditabitur
Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)
The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,
and his tongue speaks what is just.
The law of his God is in his heart:
and his feet do not falter.
Alleluia.
3. Ehre sei Gott in der Höhe
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
*Molly Barnes, soprano*  Miya Higashiyama, alto
*Nicholas Stevens, tenor*  Jesús Gómez, bass

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Le chant des oyseaux
Clément Janequin (c. 1475-1560)
*(sung in French)*

**Part 1**
Wake up, sleepy hearts
For the god of love summons you!

On this first day of May
Birds will work wonders
To take away your troubles.
Listen attentively.
And fa la la la la (etc…)
You will be filled with joy.
Everyone gives in to it,
For the season is good.

**Part 2**
You will hear, I believe,
Sweet music sung by the royal thrush.
The blackbird and the starling
will also come together
In one, magisterial voice:

Ti, ti, pyti, ti, thouy, chouti,
What are you saying?
The little starling of Paris.
The little darling.
Who goes there? Sparrow, you villain!
Good heavens!

It is time to go drinking.
Off to “Mass,” mistress mine.
Let’s take a walk to see “Saint Robin”
Show your tit, that cute little thing!
It’s time to go drinking.
Off my lady! Off to “Mass,”
Of prattling Saint Cluck.
The tiny Parisian starling.
Wise, courtly, and most learned.
To laugh and poke fun at myself is my intent;
Everyone gives in to it.

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Everyone gives in to it.
Part 3
Nightingale from the lovely woods,
In which the voice resounds,
You babble on and on
To relieve your sorrow.

Friant, friant, etc. (bird sounds)
Away with regrets, tears, and cares,
For the season commands it,
For the season is good.

Part 4
Away with you, master cuckoo
Leave our assembly;
You have mistreated everyone,
For you are nothing but a traitor.
Cuckoo, cuckoo etc. (bird sounds)
You deceitfully cuckold every nest,
laying eggs that no one requests of you.

Awake, sleepy hearts,
The god of love is calling you.

Alles hat seine Zeit (Hob. xxv, C3)
Franz Josef Haydn (1732-1809)
(sung in German)
Michael Plagerman, piano

Live, love, drink, romp, put on wreaths with me;
revel with me when I revel.
Then I can be sensible again.

Greensleeves
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
(sung in English)

Alas, my love, you do me wrong
to cast me off discourteously,
And I have loved you so long,
Delighting in your company.

Refrain:
Greensleeves was all my joy,
Greensleeves was my delight,
Greensleeves was my heart of gold,
And who but my Lady Greensleeves.

I have been ready at your hand
to grant whatever you would crave,
I have both waged life and land,
your love and goodwill for to have.

Refrain

Glossolalia
JAC Redford (b. 1953)

Text from “Ecstatic Utterances” by the composer.
Performance Notes:
Glossolalia means “speaking in tongues.” This piece
is NOT about a religious practice, but about taking
delight in the sounds of consonants and vowels.

Lux Aeterna
Jesús Gómez (b. 1994)
(student composition, conducted by the composer)
(sung in Latin and English)

Lux (Light),
Above my head lie vast celestial oceans,
silently declaring the glory of the Lord.
Brilliant light!
Light from the dawn of Creation shines on me!
Lux aeterna (Light eternal)
luceat eis, Domine. (shine on us, Lord.)
The light shines in the darkness
but has not been overcome!
YOU ARE the light; shine on me!
Supreme Virtue
Mark Adamo (b. 1962)
sung in English

Can you coax your mind from its wanderings and keep to the original oneness? Can you let your body become supple as a newborn child? Can you cleanse your inner vision until you see nothing but the light? Can you love people and lead them without imposing your will? Can you deal with the most vital matters by letting events take their course? Can you step back from your own mind and thus understand all things?

Giving birth and nourishing, having without possessing; acting with no expectation, leading without trying to control; This is the supreme virtue.

Music of Scandinavia

1. Kung Liljekonvalje
David Wikander (1884-1955)
sung in Swedish

King Lily-of-the-Valley from the grove, King Lily-of-the-Valley is white as snow, now the young king mourns over Princess Lily-of-the-Valley-Maiden.

Around the bier, a spider weaves from the “incense place” with floral scent an incense [that] slowly flows; the entire forest is full of fragrance.

From the birch’s rocking crown, from the wind’s waving green house small songs of sorrow sound; the entire forest is filled up with whistling.

A message is whispered through the valley about a king’s sorrow among whispering leaves, in the wide kingdoms of the forest, from the capital of the Lilies-of-the-Valley.

2. Se dig ud en sommerdag
Carl Nielsen (1865-1931)/arr. Bo Holton
sung in Danish

Look about one summer day, See the farmers rolling: Land afore and town away, Lark and bee patrolling, Barley’s earing, berries grow, Toddlers frisking to-and-fro, Flow’ring rye, a scent you know, Around the farms is drifting!

Denmark is a little land, All the way it’s thorough, Thus provides for every hand In its field and borough. Rye is with its swollen knee Growing high in hillock’s lee, Cone of hop and apple tree Get sun by chalky gables.
Ferries with a broader breast,
Clad in steel and plated,
Plough and ply ’tween east and west
‘Cross the belts, awaited.
Copper spires, roofs in tiles
See themselves for mirrored miles;
Far away the greenwood isles
Will watch the white sails’ swelling.

Here the train will groan along,
Smoke is rising higher;
At a gate the colt gets strong,
Canter, snorting shyer.
Herdsmen couple cows a-tie,
Rush and brush let evening sigh;
From the blacksmith’s door will fly
Long-lasting sparks at gloaming.

If the towns do wear you, Dane,
And your clothes too greatly,
Look at Denmark’s land again
From its hills – how stately:
Closed by heights at times, the sight
Now discovers belt and bight
– Wondrous like the heron flight
As evening sun is setting.

**Goin’ Home**

*Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)*
*arr. Michael Murray*
*(sung in English)*

Goin’ home, goin’ home,
I’m a go-in’ home.
Quiet like some still day,
I’m jes’ goin’ home.

It’s not far jes’ close by,
Through an open door.
Work all done care laid by,
Gwine to fear no more.

Mother’s there ‘specting me,
Father’s waitin’ too.
Lots of folk gathered there,
All the friends I knew.

Home, I’m goin’ home!
Nothin’ lost all gain.
No more fret nor pain.
No more stumblin’ on the way,
No more longin’ for the day,
Gwine to roam no more!

Morning star lights the way,
Res’less dreams all done.
Shadows gone break o’ day,
Real life jes’ begun.
There’s no break, ain’t no end,
Jes’ a livin’ on.
Wide awake with a smile,
Goin’ on and on.

Goin’ home, goin’ home,
I’m jes goin’ home.
It’s not far jes’ close by,
Through an open door.
I’m a goin’ home.
I’m jes’ goin’ home!

**The Battle of Jericho**

*(Afro-American spiritual)*
*arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)*
*(sung in English)*

Joshua fit the Battle of Jericho
and the walls come tumbalin’ down.

Talk about your kings of Gideon,
talk about your men of Saul,
but none like good old Joshua
at the Battle of Jericho.
Right up to the walls of Jericho, he marched with spear in hand. “Go blow that ram-horn!” Joshua cried. “Cause the battle am in my hand.”

God, almighty, then the lamb, ram, sheep horns begin to blow and the trumpet begins to sound. Joshua commanded the children to shout and the walls come a tum-ba-lin’ down.

Oh Lord, you know that Joshua fit the Battle, yes, the Battle of Jericho, the walls come tum-ba-lin’ down.
### Soprano
- Anikka Abbott
- Alexandra Atwood
- Molly Barnes
- Tess Benson
- Elizabeth Binkley
- Katie Coddington
- Sarah Hubert
- Molly Parce
- Lauren Searls
- Tasha Smith
- Katrina Watson

### Alto
- Sarah-lynn Bennett
- Erika Hagen
- Annie Herzog
- Miya Higashiyama
- Sascha Julian
- Carli Kross
- Sophia Lewis
- Hannah Webber
- Sadie Wentz

### Tenor
- Steven Arends
- Nathan Brown
- David Carson
- Joseph Delgado
- Alex Gallo
- Christopher Glessman
- Dylan Harm
- Maxfield Marcus
- Kyle Mitchell
- Nicholas Stevens

### Bass
- Joshua Bozich
- Tyler Dobies
- Jesús Gómez
- Michael Greer Jr.
- Brandon Hell
- Nicholas Hester
- Michael Plagerman
- Aron Roberts
- Dalton Rouse
- Kyle Stocker
- Kyle Sturmer
- Tévita Tupou

For more information about Pacific Lutheran University, our choirs, and to order recordings, please visit us online at [www.plu.edu/choir](http://www.plu.edu/choir).