

Pacific Lutheran University
CHORAL UNION
Tour Ensemble

Tacoma, Washington USA



Croatia 2023

Dubrovnik ☀ Korčula ☀ Hvar ☀ Split ☀ Pula



Introduction

Zdravo. The Pacific Lutheran University Choral Union, from Tacoma, Washington USA, is planning a tour to Croatia in July of 2023. This will be our second tour to your beautiful country - we visited Croatia in 2008, and are most anxious to return! This brochure contains information about our choir, the conductor, and our tour repertoire. We hope you will consider hosting one of our tour concerts, and we look forward to meeting you soon!



About the Choir

The Pacific Lutheran University Choral Union has been recognized as one of the finest community choruses in the United States. The choir performs three or four concerts each season, ranging from programs comprised of shorter choral works to programs of larger works with orchestra. Choral Union regularly collaborates with professional music organizations in the Seattle/Tacoma region, including the Northwest Sinfonietta, Everett Philharmonic Orchestra, the Fifth Avenue Theater, and the Pacific Northwest Ballet.



Choral Union has been involved in a number of prestigious North American premieres, including *Passion and Resurrection* and the *Nordic Light Symphony* by Ēriks Ešēvalds, Fredrik Sixten's *Magnificat*, and Sven-David Sandström's *Matthauspassion*. The choir has been

selected to perform for regional and national conferences of the American Choral Directors Association, which is considered a significant achievement for choral ensembles in the United States. Choral Union's 25th Anniversary Album won the 2011 American Prize for outstanding recording by a community chorus.



Choral Union has a full membership of 60-70 singers, comprised of alumni of Pacific Lutheran University, current students, and people from the wider Seattle/Tacoma community. Members are selected through an annual audition. The Tour Ensemble is comprised of 40 singers from the full choir. The ensemble has performed concerts in England, France, Italy, Croatia, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Czech Republic,

Slovenia, Sweden, and Norway. Choral Union was the featured choir at the 2002 World Harp Congress, held in Geneva. The choir appeared in the Cambridge (UK) Summer Music Festival in 2005 and at Festival Bled (Slovenia) in 2008. In 2014 Choral Union won both the Mixed Choir and Sacred Music categories at the Florence International Choir Festival.



About the Conductor



Richard Nance spent a 30-year career at Pacific Lutheran University (1992-2022), where he conducted the Choir of the West, University Singers and Choral Union. Nance's choirs have performed at two ACDA National Conferences, 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 Pacific

Lutheran University. He has served ACDA as Washington state and Northwestern Division president, and received leadership and service awards from both organizations. 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.

Following his retirement from teaching, Dr. Nance continues in his position as conductor of the PLU Choral Union along with his work as a composer.



Pacific Lutheran 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.



Tour Repertoire

I.

Cantate Domino	T. J. Wheeler
I am the true vine.....	Daniel Schreiner
Psalm 117.....	Daniel J. Knaggs

II.

Under Heaven.....	Austin Schend
1. Birth and Death	
2. The Setting Sun	
3. Return to Heaven	

III.

The Gift.....	JAC Redford
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IV.

American Folk Hymns

1. Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal.....	arr. Alice Parker
2. My Song in the Night	arr. Paul J. Christiansen
3. Simple Gifts	arr. René Clausen

V.

African-American Spirituals

1. I Got Shoes	arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw
2. I've Been in the Storm So Long	arr. Jeffrey Ames
3. Witness.....	arr. Jack Halloran

Choral Union’s 2023 Tour Repertoire will feature 57 minutes of sacred music appropriate for church audiences. We begin the program with ***Cantate Domino***, a new work composed by one of our singers, T.J. Wheeler. In this work, Wheeler incorporates the traditional greeting “Dominus vobiscum/et cum spiritu tuo” (the Lord be with you, and with thy spirit). If there is room in the venue, the choir will process in during this piece. We will then segue into another premiere, ***I Am The True Vine***, by choir member Daniel Schreiner. The first section ends with an impressive, festive setting of ***Psalm 117***, by American composer Daniel J. Knaggs.

In the second section of the program we present a seven-minute work in three movements, ***Under Heaven***, by PLU alumnus Austin Schend. Austin has sung as a tenor in Choral Union, and composed this work for this tour to Croatia. The work deals with themes of life and

death, and particularly the acceptance of death as a natural process of life. The movements are: I. Birth and Death (text from Ecclesiastes 3:1-2), II. The Setting Sun (text by James Allen), and III. Return to Heaven (text by Marcus Aurelius, translated by Francis Hutcheson and James Moor).

JAC Redford's ***The Gift*** is a warm, lyrical setting of the Latin text *Musica Dei, donum optimi*. The anonymous author describes music as a "gift of the most glorious God." Redford's lush harmonic writing and sweeping vocal lines perfectly frame this image.

The fourth section of the program is a set of American folk hymn arrangements, including the sturdy ***Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal*** by Alice Parker, ***My Song in the Night***, by Paul Christiansen, and the Shaker hymn ***Simple Gifts***, by René Clausen.

Next we feature two motets by Spanish composer Josu Elberdin. The first is his lyrical ***Ubi Caritas et amor*** (Where charity and love are, God is there) followed by another setting of ***Cantate Domino***, in which the composer blends the English version of the text with a version sung in his native Basque language.

The final section of the program will feature three popular arrangements of African-American spirituals. These include the spritely ***I Got Shoes*** (by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw), Jeffrey Ames' passionate ***I've Been In The Storm So Long***, and an exciting setting of ***Witness***, by Jack Halloran. This program offers great variety - a number of exciting, rhythmic works paired with selections that provide moments for reflection.



Sample media

To hear a sample performance of Austin Schend's *Under Heaven*, please click on this YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P5KICN8yYRA&t=33s>

To hear a sample performance of *Ubi Caritas* and *Cantate Domino*, please click on this YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aZacdrk2LI&t=4s>

