



Central Washington University  
Department of Music  
presents:

# LIFE'S FIRE

## **University Chorale**

Professor Vijay Singh, *conductor*

## **Vox Divina**

Dr. Nicole Lamartine, *conductor*

## **Wildcat Chorus**

Dr. Scott R. Peterson, *conductor*

## **Chamber Choir**

Dr. Nicole Lamartine, *conductor*

Jerilyn S. McIntyre Music Building Wayne S. Hertz Concert Hall  
Sunday, March 9, 2025  
4:00 PM

**Program**  
**University Chorale**  
Prof. Vijay Singh, *conductor*

**To Music**

Vijay Singh

**Alma Redemptoris Mater**

Giovanni Palestrina  
(1525-1594)

*Sweet Mother of the Redeemer, the passage to the heavens,  
the gate of the spirits of the dead, and the star of the sea, aid the  
falling.*

*Mother of Him who cares for the people: you who brought forth  
the wonder of Nature, your Creator.*

*Virgin before and after, who received of Gabriel  
with joyful greeting, have pity on us sinners.*

**Sure On This Shining Night**

Morten Lauridsen

Ella Melin, *piano*

**The Blind Man Stood On The Way**

Traditional Spiritual  
arr. Vijay Singh

## **Vox Divina**

**Dr. Nicole C. Lamartine**, *conductor*  
**Christopher Lerch**, *graduate conductor*  
**Kathryn Amdahl**, *collaborative pianist*

**The Earth, The Air, The Fire,  
The Water**

Anonymous

Anya Degroot and Aubrey Akers, *percussion*

**The Song I Came to Sing**

Craig Hella Johnson  
(b. 1962)

Isa Thornsley, *cello*

**Ode To The Wind, Moon, Trees,  
and Rising Stars**

Judy A. Rose

- I. Ode to the Wind
- II. Ode to the Moon and  
the Rising Stars
- III. Ode to the Trees

Judy A. Rose is a Portland-based composer, conductor, and educator who has been an active part of the region's musical community for over 20 years. This triptych was commissioned by the 2024 Washington State ACDA Summer Music Institute.

**A Circle is Cast**

Anna Dembska

Anya Degroot and Aubrey Akers, *percussion*

## CWU Wildcat Chorus

Dr. Scott R. Peterson, *conductor*

Maria Kramer, *graduate conductor*

Nathan Ortiz, *collaborative pianist*

**Sangerhilsen**

Edvard Grieg  
(1843-1907)

**Cantate Domino**

Giovanni Croce  
(1557-1609)

O sing to the Lord a new song;  
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
Sing to the Lord and praise his name:  
Tell of his salvation from day to day.

**Bonnie Hielan Laddie**

arr. Tom Schreck

Ares Turner and Thomas Elley, *solos*

**Can We Sing the Darkness to Light?**

Kyle Pederson  
(b. 1971)

Nathan Ortiz, *piano*

**I'll Fly Away**

arr. Faith Zimmer

Lael Maddox, *mandolin*

Jeff Selden, *banjo*

Scott Peterson, *guitar*

Dylan Bell, *cello*

Rowan Morales, *bass*

# CWU Chamber Choir

Dr. Nicole C. Lamartine, *conductor*

Dr. Issac Vargas, *collaborative pianist*

Maria Kramer and Christopher Lerch, *graduate conductors*

## FIRE IN THE MEADOW

Five visions of Hildegard von Bingen and Inayat Khan

(2024) (premier)

Forrest Pierce

Text by Christian mystic Hildegard von Bingen and Sufi mystic Inayat Khan  
(von Bingen) (Khan)

### I. Living Fire

I am the ultimate fiery life  
striking living sparks  
extinguishing none.

I see them as they are.  
My upper wings ringing  
earth's circle with wisdom,  
I set it spinning.

Kindle, Lord, fire in my heart,  
*that life may become clearer to me.*

Raise my soul up  
*as the rising of the flame.*

### II. Resplendence

Life's fire burns  
in the beauty of meadows  
it shines in the waters  
it blazes in the sun, moon, and stars,

This landscape in my heart  
*is a reflection of Your beauty.*

Let my life become the spring  
of Your intinite life,  
*running eternally forever and ever.*

### III. Rising and Setting

When the waning moon sets,  
the sun lights it new,  
and it lives again.

Let my heart reflect Your light  
*as the moon reflects the sun.*

Let my soul advance toward You  
*as the rising moon progresses towards fullness.*

#### IV. The Ecstasy of Air

Through the breath of the air,  
which sustains all,  
invisible life  
nurtures everything.  
The breath lives in the green  
and in flowers;  
The waters flow as if alive,  
The sun lives, too, by its light.

Speak, God, to me  
*through the air.*

The air brings Thy message  
*and turns me into ecstasy.*

#### V. Your Hidden Face

The stars also shine  
in their own light  
by being alive.

Let me receive Your divine message  
*as the stars receive light from Your hidden face.*

Composer (Farhad) Forrest Pierce innovatively combines his Sufi Islamic traditions with a fresh voice in modern American choral music. He teaches Sufism in the Chishti tradition of Hazrat Inayat Khan and leads zikr in his community. A composer and poet originally from Washington state, he now teaches composition at the University of Kansas where he writes music “of meditative stillness and ecstatic virtuosity rooted in a deep connection to the natural world.” “Fire in the Meadow” was commissioned in 2024.

“Fire in the Meadow” is a five-movement work, each twinning intense passages from Hildegard von Bingen’s mystic texts and a series of resonant meditations by the great Sufi teacher Inayat Khan. Each movement unifies the Hildegard texts with contemplative phrases by Inayat Khan illustrating the mystical symbolism of the outside world. The Khan excerpts provide cyclical accompaniment patterns in each movement, drawn from Sufi practice.

# Personnel

## Vox Divina

|                   |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Alyssa Acob       | Patricia Fehling  | Sophie Otness     |
| Aubrey Akers      | Meg Garmey        | Elle Palomo       |
| Fynn Alston       | Skylar Greto      | Alex Payne        |
| Jai Bailey        | Paige Herd        | Lillian Record    |
| Jessican Brown    | Finn Hoke         | Stephanie Sanchez |
| Destiny Bunney    | Olivia Holloway   | Phoenix Smith     |
| Estepani Chavez   | Nicole Horne      | Nina Soetamin     |
| Anya Degroot      | Samantha Kincade  | Calia Stodden     |
| Mulholland Dunlap | Beka Lashley      | Ryn Sullivan      |
| Lyss Endrich      | Christopher Lerch | Isabela Thornsley |
| Em Falter         | Violet Madson     | Mimi Ye           |
| Adamari Farias    |                   |                   |

## Chamber Choir

### Soprano

Ashley Both  
Maria Kramer  
Morgan Lenz  
Nicole Loveless  
Moirra Mcgregor  
Alex Stevahn  
Sofie Strandjord  
Kristina Svistunov

### Alto

Camille Brennan  
Anna Grushevskiy  
Jules Kim  
Caitlyn Leners  
Sophie Otness  
Kyra Ross  
Calia Stodden  
Mackenzie Turner

### Tenor

Luca Castillejo  
JT Durham  
Gabriel Frank  
Jakob Kennicutt  
Christopher Lerch  
Dallin Millard  
Trevor Patnode

### Bass

Kael Bartness  
Nico Benabid  
Andrew Gomes  
Jared Loveless  
Aidan Marano  
Trevor Stowell  
Jaykub Willis

## University Chorale

|                  |                      |                       |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Fynn Alston      | Kiko Gomez           | Kevin Palestina       |
| Andy Ashley      | Jalen Grossaint      | Elle Palomo           |
| Corinne Avis     | Kailey Henry         | Yajayra Ramirez-Tapia |
| Jai Bailey       | Paige Herd           | Alexis Birrueta Ramos |
| Lili Beaver      | Ozzie Hernandez      | Stephanie Sanchez     |
| Jessica Brown    | Finn Hoke            | Camden Sanor          |
| Collin Brown     | Daniel Holder        | Sarah Seevers         |
| William Campbell | Lily Kealoha         | Morgan Snavely        |
| Madeleine Cannon | Dominique Ketner     | Nina Soetamin         |
| David Chang      | Theo Lewis           | Samantha Staab        |
| Lucas Clark      | Aspen Lillywhite     | Yeyra Ramirez Tapia   |
| Eliana Cobbs     | Elliot Matteson      | Ryan Taylor-Schmid    |
| Alex Coon        | Mark May             | Alonso Torres         |
| Hope Cox         | Hailey Mays          | Zachary Trembly       |
| Carter Davis     | Rowan Mccann         | Sergio Valdez         |
| Genesis Duran    | Ella Melin           | Dominic Vazquez       |
| Patricia Fehling | Arturo Meza          | Arlette Villalobos    |
| Meg Garmey       | Rafael Morales-Velez | Melia Wyatt           |
| Tristan Geronimo | Keith Naught         |                       |

## Wildcat Chorus

|                  |                      |                       |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Dylan Arredondo  | Ozzie Hernandez      | Elijah Orosco Rosalez |
| Dylan Bell       | Connor Hoiland       | Oscar Osorio          |
| Declan Brennan   | Daniel Holder        | Trevor Patnode        |
| William Campbell | Lily Kealoha         | Morgan Reed           |
| Lucas Clark      | Warren Kidder        | Drago Smith           |
| Jessica Cosmos   | Theo Lewis           | Allen Tang            |
| Jay Crisp        | Eric Long-Erickson   | Alonso Torres         |
| JT Durham        | Gabe Lugarda-Stinch- | Logan Tranberg        |
| Jonathan Edwards | field                | Ares Turner           |
| Thomas Elley     | Mark May             | Dominoc Vazquez       |
| Tristan Geronimo | Rowan Mccann         | Steve Wenger          |
| Alex Godwin      | Dallin Millard       | Stephen Williford     |
| Kiko Gomez       | Rowen Morales        | Harvey Wolney         |
| Ryan Harman      |                      |                       |

# About CWU Choirs

**University Chorale** is the largest mixed choral ensemble at CWU open to all students without audition. Founded by Scott Peterson as a graduate teaching assistant in 1974, Chorale has become a destination ensemble for all students who love to sing regardless of major area of study. Prof. Vijay Singh has directed the Chorale since 1999 and emphasizes building musicianship, teaching vocal technique, commitment to excellence, and varied entertaining programming.

**Vox Divina** creates beauty in community by performing music infused with expression to inspire the lives of all audience members. Described as possessing an “intoxicating” vocal tone, this non-auditioned treble choir membership ranges from brand-new singers to pre-service music education and performance majors. We strive to bring breadth and depth of musical experience: the ensemble provides new singers with music literacy and a foundation of strong vocal technique, while music education majors receive leadership opportunities. The choir sings a variety of musical styles from cultures around the world and is under the leadership of CWU Director of Choirs, Dr. Nicole Lamartine.

**The CWU Wildcat Chorus** is an ensemble for any CWU tenor and bass student who would like to sing. The “Wildcatters” are non-auditioned. They are an energetic group which fosters a team attitude and works to be a support group for the members as well. We generally sing a program of music styles taken from the traditions of the tenor/bass choral canon. The Wildcat Chorus has appeared at two Washington Music Educators Association conferences and at a NW Division Conference for the American Choral Directors Association in Seattle. This is “Dr. P’s” thirteenth year as director. He is also Artistic Director and Conductor of Canticus Vocal Ensemble.

**The CWU Chamber Choir** has been hailed in the last year as “the finest collegiate choir in the west” with “genius programming” and “stunning” performances. Chamber Choir is the flagship choral ensemble at Central, representing excellence in vocal talent, musicianship, and professionalism. This SATB ensemble focuses on innovative programming - including premieres, commissions, and guest artists - to create a concert experience of exploration and intention. With a tradition of excellence spanning several decades, the CWU Chamber Choir is under leadership of Director of Choirs, Dr. Nicole C. Lamartine. The members represent the highest level of singing musicians at Central, including vocal performance and music education students.

# The Conductors



## **Dr. Nicole Lamartine**

Director of Choirs

509-963-1616

Nicole.Lamartine@cwu.edu

As Director of Choirs at Central Washington University, Dr. Nicole Lamartine acts on her values of empowering the next generation of choral educators and cultivating excellence in 21st century choral performance.

As a clinician and guest conductor of three international honor choirs (DoDDS Honor Choir in Germany, AMIS TTBB Honor Choir in Abu Dhabi, TAISM Festival Choir in Oman), nine All-State choirs (MN, CO, WA, OR, WY, MT, AK, KS, ID), the 2014 NW ACDA TTBB Honor Choir, and dozens of regional honor choirs, Nicole seeks to positively impact choral musicians all over the world. She is slated to conduct All-State choirs in MT, WA, and NM in 2024-5.

An avid champion for music education, Dr. La has headlined conferences of the Association for Music in International Schools (Hong Kong) and the Washington Music Educators Association. In February, 2024 she headlined the 8th Costa Rica Seminar on Choral Conducting in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Dr. Lamartine's research focuses on rehearsal technique and anatomy and movement for conductors, and she has presented at dozens of conferences including national and regional meetings of the American Choral Directors Association, the National Collegiate Choral Organization, College Music Society, California All-State Music Conference, and the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

From 2020-2022, Dr. Nicole Lamartine served as the Sorensen Director of Choral Music at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she conducted the flagship UCSB Chamber Choir, integrated relevance into graduate choral studies at the MM and DMA levels, and taught studio conducting and voice.

As Professor and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wyoming from 2008-2020, she led the Collegiate Chorale, The UW Singing Statesmen and the Happy Jacks, and taught conducting and studio voice. Her choirs were honored to sing at several national and regional conferences (2020 NW ACDA, 2017 NW NAFME, 2015 NW NAFME, 2012, NW ACDA, 2011 NCCO, 2011 NW MENC), and she is a recognized expert in females conducting tenor/bass choirs. She won the Ellbogen Award for Meritorious Classroom Teaching, the university's highest teaching award.

Dr. Lamartine has enjoyed abundant opportunities to commission and premiere new works from leading composers such as Craig Hella Johnson, Libby Larsen, Jennifer Higdon, Gerard Schwarz, Forrest Pierce, Gabriela Lena Frank, John Muehleisen, and Karen Thomas. She conducts Chor Anno with Howard Meharg (Vancouver, WA), providing an opportunity for a creative outlet as ensemble singers to choral music educators in the NW. Chor Anno performed at the 2022 NW ACDA conference. She is also the founding Artistic Director of the Santa Barbara Gay Men's Chorus.

An active performer, Dr. La has sung professionally with Conspirare, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and Colorado Bach Ensemble. She has served the American Choral Directors Association as President of the Northwestern region. She achieved world, national, and state records in powerlifting, demonstrating that creativity is intertwined with strength of body and mind. The "Nicole Lamartine Choral Series" is published with Santa Barbara Music Press and focuses on accessible music for emerging Tenor-Bass choirs.



**Professor Vijay Singh**  
Vijay.Singh@cwu.edu

Vijay Singh is an active performer, composer, teacher, conductor, and clinician residing in Ellensburg, Washington where he is Professor of Music at Central Washington University.

A graduate of Willamette University (B. M. Ed/Clarinet & Voice) and Portland State University (Masters in Choral Conducting/Vocal Performance), he has rapidly gained international attention for his eclectic musical compositions, performances, workshops, and conducting appearances.

Vijay's teaching experiences have included work at public secondary schools, community college, and university levels. He currently teaches choral arranging, jazz pedagogy, directs the University Chorale, and award-winning CWU Vocal Jazz 1, and oversees the vocal jazz program (3 jazz choirs). Vijay's student ensembles at CWU have been honored as some of the finest in the nation with invitations to perform at prestigious national IAJE, JEN, MENC, and ACDA conventions.

As a composer, Vijay writes for all levels in both the classical choral and jazz idioms. His compositions (over 180 published) are widely available from a number of publishers and he often writes on commission for some of North America's finest ensembles. Vijay's "MASS with Orchestra" received it's world premiere at Lincoln Center in New York City May 30th, 2011.

An active performer, Vijay has appeared as featured bass-baritone soloist with such notable groups as Male Ensemble Northwest, Choral Cross Ties, the Oregon Symphony, the Robert Shaw Chorale, David Byrne (Talking Heads), Clark Terry, the Disciples of Groove, and as a member of the award-winning a cappella jazz quartet Just 4 Kicks. He has appeared in professional opera and musical theatre productions, and maintains an active career in oratorio, recital, and contemporary music.

Vijay served 4 years as National Repertoire and Standards Chair for Jazz Choirs in the American Choral Director's Association and is in demand as a guest conductor of AllState and Honors choirs. He has conducted All-State choirs in over 26 states and has the distinction of conducting both All-State Concert Choirs and Jazz Choirs within the same year.

Vijay has served as adjudicator/jurist at international festivals in Canada, the Netherlands, Germany, and the United States. The recent recipient of a 16th ASCAP Composer's Award, Vijay is also a member of ACDA, NAFME, JEN, ASCAP, and the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Vijay was honored with CWU's highest faculty award, the Distinguished University Professor for Artistic Achievement, in 2011- 2012.



## **Dr. Scott Peterson**

Scott.Peterson@cwu.edu

In the fall of 2012, Scott Peterson returned to his alma mater to conduct the CWU Men's Choir as an adjunct professor.

He retired in June, 2012, from Yakima Valley Community College after 36 successful years as Director of Choral Activities. While at YVCC, Dr. Peterson conducted the Concert Choir and Chamber Singers and also taught music appreciation and music theory. He continues as Chorus-master of the Yakima Symphony Chorus which is the choral organization of the Yakima Symphony Orchestra. He teaches a Choral Literature Techniques course in the CWU summer graduate offerings for the Masters of Music Education.

A native of Iowa, Scott Peterson received his D.M.A. degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Washington where he conducted the U. W. Opera Chorus. He was granted Central Washington University's first M. A. degree in conducting where he formed and conducted the Central Chorale. He received a B. A. degree in music education from Midland Lutheran College where he conducted the Freshmen Chorale. Dr. Peterson studied with Robert DeCormier, Dale Warland, Abraham Kaplan, Joan Conlon, William Hatcher, Maurice Skones, E. Gordon Leavitt and Eugene B. Nelson. He also twice performed as a member of the Robert Shaw Festival Singers in Carnegie Hall under Robert Shaw.

Dr. Peterson was a member of Male Ensemble Northwest for 27 years. During that time he performed with MEN at two national ACDA conferences and several division conferences. He was on the faculty at the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival for 7 summers where he conducted the FSAF Chamber Singers and the Festival Chorus.

Dr. Peterson is past president of the Northwestern Division of the American Choral Directors Association. During his term, the Divisional conference was held in Vancouver, B. C., the first ACDA conference to occur outside the United States.

## **CWU Choral Faculty**

Dr. Nicole Lamartine, Director of Choirs

Prof. Vijay Singh

Dr. Scott Peterson

## **CWU Voice Faculty**

Dr. Melissa Schiel

Dr. Gayla Blasidell

Prof. Mia Spencer

Dr. Jan Nelson

Prof. Brittany Stahley



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The CWU Choral Foundation serves to support the ongoing mission of Central Washington University Choral activities.

Please contact Dr. Nicole Lamartine, Director of Choirs:  
Nicole.Lamartine@cwu.edu or 509-963-1616

## **Be a part of the excellence!**

We offer a variety of choral opportunities for any interested singer – and you don't have to be a music major to participate! Vox Divina, Wildcatters, and Chorale are ALL non-auditioned – just sign up for the class. Chamber Choir will hold auditions for additional members each quarter in finals week.

### Questions?

Please contact Dr. Nicole Lamartine, Director of Choirs:  
Nicole.Lamartine@cwu.edu or 509-963-1616

**Vox Divina (SA)**  
MUS 211/411

Dr. Nicole Lamartine

**Wildcat Chorus (TB)**  
MUS 228/428

Dr. Scott Peterson

**University Chorale (SATB)**  
MUS 267/467/567

Prof. Vijay Singh

**Chamber Choir (SATB)**  
MUS 268/468/568

Dr. Nicole C. Lamartine

## Music Department Calendar of Events

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| March 5, 6:00pm   | Chamber Woodwinds Recital+             |
| March 5, 7:00pm   | Trombone Choir Concert+                |
| March 9, 2:00pm   | Collaborative Piano Practicum Recital* |
| March 9, 4:00pm   | Choir Concert+\$                       |
| March 10, 6:00pm  | Composition Studio Recital*            |
| March 10, 7:30pm  | Flute Studio Recital*                  |
| March 11, 6:00pm  | Jazz Combo Concert 1*                  |
| March 11, 8:00pm  | Jazz Combo Concert 2*                  |
| March 13, 6:00pm  | Luis Anguiano, Viola Recital*          |
| March 16, 12:00pm | Vincent Mason, Percussion Recital*     |
| March 16, 2:00pm  | Chamber Piano Recital*                 |
| March 16, 4:00pm  | Symphony Orchestra Concert+\$          |
| April 7, 6:00pm   | Brianna Wilcher, Flute Recital*        |
| April 11, 6:00pm  | Hunter De Leon, Euphonium Recital*     |
| April 12, 3:00pm  | Saxophone Day Final Concert*           |
| April 12, 7:00pm  | Opera Scenes+\$                        |
| April 13, 2:00pm  | Levi Jeffries, Flute Recital*          |
| April 13, 4:00pm  | Opera Scenes+\$                        |
| April 17, 6:00pm  | Melissa Schiel, Michelle Rahn, and     |

**All dates and times subject to change. For the most recent calendar of events, visit [www.cwu.edu/music](http://www.cwu.edu/music) or call (509) 963-1216**

\* Recital Hall + Wayne S. Hertz Concert Hall \$ Ticketed

Parking is free every weekday after 4:30 p.m. and all day on weekends, unless otherwise stated.

Please refrain from the use of cell phones and any electronic devices outside of accessing the program through the duration of your visit to our facility. Thank you.

Thank you for all that you do to advance Central's commitment to excellence and connecting our world through music.

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*Central Washington University acknowledges the people who have been on this land since time immemorial. The Ellensburg campus is on lands ceded by the Pshwanapum and other bands and tribes of the Yakama Nation in the Treaty of 1855. The Yakama people remain committed stewards of this land, cherishing it and protecting it, as instructed by elders through generations. We are honored and grateful to be here today on their traditional lands, and give thanks to the legacy of the original people, their lives, and their descendants.*