

# CHOR★ANNO

INSPIRED CHORAL MUSIC

with



## “Life’s Loveliness”

### CHOR ANNO

**Dr. Nicole C. Lamartine, *Conductor***

**J. Howard Meharg, *Founder and***

***Associate Conductor***

**Brian Hoskins, *Collaborator***

with

### The CWU Chamber Choir

**Dr. Nicole C. Lamartine, *Conductor***

**Dr. Issac Vargas, *Collaborator***

Jerilyn S. McIntyre Music Building Wayne S. Hertz Concert Hall

Saturday, May 17, 2025

2:00 PM

# Program

## Chor Anno

Life

Jacob Narverud

Life has loveliness to sell,  
All beautiful and splendid things,  
Blue waves whitened on a cliff,  
Soaring fire that sways and sings,  
And children's faces looking up  
Holding wonder like a cup.

Life has loveliness to sell,  
Music like a curve of gold,  
Scent of pine trees in the rain,  
Eyes that love you, arms that hold,  
And for your spirit's still delight,  
Holy thoughts that star the night.

Spend all you have for loveliness,  
Buy it and never count the cost;  
For one white singing hour of peace  
Count many a year of strife well lost,  
And for a breath of ecstasy  
Give all you have been, or could be.

-Sara Teasdale

Alleluia

William Sixten

Alleluia.

## Time

Jennifer Lucy Cook

Time: You can spend it Time When you spend it To work and  
Then you're running out of Time to waste and there's no Time  
Time You can save it Left to hold her But to save it is to take a  
little Time Time To tell him how you feel In a minute While  
there's still When you're in it Time Can you feel the passing Three  
two one, eleven thirty Time Two AM, then dinner Is an illusion  
Time There's confusion Now to kill When they tell you now it's I  
said I will, and still Time It flies and flies, oh To get older Time

## Becoming the Ocean

Jake Runestad

Poem by Kahlil Gibran

Howard Meharg, *conductor*

*It is said that before entering the sea, A river trembles with fear.  
She looks back at the path she has travelled, from the peaks of  
the mountains, to the long winding road crossing forests and villages.  
And in front of her, she sees an ocean so vast,  
that to enter it, she might disappear forever.  
There is no other way. The river can not go back. Nobody can go back.  
The river must take the risk of entering the ocean: only then will  
fear disappear. That's when the river will know it's not disappearing into  
the ocean, but becoming the ocean.*

## CWU Chamber Choir

### Sacred Place

Alex Berko (b. 1995)

#### I. Opening Prayer (words by Wendell Berry)

Christopher Lerch, *solo*

#### II. Amidah (words by John Muir)

#### III. Shema (words by William Stafford)

Maria Kramer and Andrew Gomes, *solos*

#### IV. Mi Shebeirach (traditional Jewish Prayer)

#### V. Kaddish (words by Rabindranath Tagore)

Jaykub Willis, Sophie Otness, Jared Loveless, *trio*

Nicole Loveless, *solo*

#### VI. Closing Prayer

Christopher Lerch, *solo*

Anthony Marquez, *violin*

Lorenzo Anguiano, *cello*

Sacred Place is an ecological service that connects the old with the new, the sacred with the secular, and the individual with their community. The outline of the work is a Jewish service. However, rather than Jewish prayers, the text is made up of various writers and thinkers who speak of the environment as a place of safety, comfort, and beauty. Written for SATB choir, piano, violin, and cello, the six-movement piece is at times a meditation and at times an impassioned prayer for the world we inhabit and share.

## I. Opening Prayer

*In the dusk of the river, the wind  
gone, the leaves grow still –  
The beautiful poise of lightness,  
The heavy world pushing toward it.*

– Wendell Berry

## II. Amidah

*“How softly these mountain rocks are adorned, and how fine and reassuring the company they keep – their brows in the sky, their feet set in groves and gay emerald meadows, a thousand flowers leaning confidingly against their adamantine bosses, while birds bees butterflies help the river and waterfalls to stir all the air into music – things frail and fleeting and types of permanence meeting here and blending as if into this glorious mountain temple Nature had gathered her choicest treasures, whether great or small to draw her lovers into close confiding communion with her.”*

– John Muir to Teddy Roosevelt  
(on preserving Yosemite National Park)

### III. Shema

*The earth says have a place, be what that place  
requires; hear the sound the birds imply  
and see as deep as ridges go behind  
each other.*

*The earth says every summer have a ranch  
that's minimum: one tree, one well, a landscape  
that proclaims a universe - sermon  
of the hills, hallelujah mountain,  
highway guided by the way the world is tilted,  
reduplication of mirage, flat evening:  
a kind of ritual for the wavering.*

*The earth says where you live wear the kind  
of color that your life is  
and by listening with the same bowed head that sings  
draw all things into one song, join  
the sparrow on the lawn, and row that easy  
way, the rage without met by the wings  
within that guide you anywhere the wind blows.*

*Listening, I think that's what the earth says.*

*— William Stafford*

#### **IV. Mi Shebeirach**

*May the source of strength  
Who blessed the ones before us  
Help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing  
And let us say Amen  
Bless those in need of healing with r'fuah sh'leimah  
The renewal of body, the renewal of spirit  
And let us say Amen*

– Old Testament

#### **V. Kaddish**

*“Let my thoughts come to you, when I am gone, like the afterglow  
of sunset at the margin of starry silence.”*

– Rabindranath Tagore

#### **VI. Closing Prayer**

*In the dusk of the river, the wind  
gone, the leaves grow still –  
The beautiful poise of lightness,  
The heavy world pushing toward it.*

**Hlonolofatsa**

**Trad. Sotho**

*We bless you in the name of the Father*

## Combined Choirs

**Plaudite, psallite**

**Kestutis Daugirdas (b. 1985)**

*Clap your hands, sing praises,  
make a joyful sound to God, all the earth – hallelujah.  
Let all nations bless the Lord, joining in his praises – hallelujah,  
for the Lord has had mercy on us – hallelujah,  
and he has led captivity captive, estimable and venerable  
for all ages – hallelujah.*

**The Times, They Are A-Changin'**

Bob Dylan  
Arr. Adam Podd

Kristina Svistunov, solo

*Come gather 'round people  
Wherever you roam  
And admit that the waters  
Around you have grown  
And accept it that soon  
You'll be drenched to the bone  
If your time to you is worth savin'  
And you better start swimmin'  
Or you'll sink like a stone  
For the times they are a-changin'  
Come mothers and fathers  
Throughout the land  
And don't criticize  
What you can't understand  
Your sons and your daughters  
Are beyond your command  
Your old road is rapidly agin'  
Please get out of the new one  
If you can't lend your hand  
For the times they are a-changin'  
The line it is drawn  
The curse it is cast  
The slow one now  
Will later be fast  
As the present now  
Will later be past  
The order is rapidly fadin'  
And the first one now  
Will later be last  
For the times they are a-changin'*

## The Promise of Living

Aaron Copland

Brian Hoskins and Issac Vargas, *piano*

*For many a year we've know these fields  
And know all the work that makes them yield.  
We're ready to work, we're ready to lend a hand.  
By working together we'll bring in the blessings of harvest.  
We plant each row with seeds of grain,  
And Providence sends us the sun and the rain.  
By lending a hand, by lending an arm  
Bring out the blessings of harvest.  
Give thanks there was sunshine, give thanks there was rain,  
Give thanks we have hands to deliver the grain.  
O let us be joyful, O let us be grateful to the Lord for his blessing.  
The promise of living, the promise of growing  
The promise of ending is labor and sharing and loving.*

# Chor Anno

## Soprano

Alison Askeland - Longview  
Molly Holloran - Richland  
Leora Schwitters - Issaquah  
Carrie Rice - Auburn  
Shannon Anderson - Vancouver  
Courtney Rowley - Seattle  
Anne Lyman - Tacoma  
Kim Claasen - Vancouver  
Kasey Eck - Steilacoom  
Jackie Green - Moses Lake

## Tenor

Justin Wisness - Puyallup  
Ben Bouton - Vancouver  
Gary Gross - Battle Ground  
Joseph To - Seattle  
Evan Miles - Eugene, OR  
Dan Colgan - Olympia  
Phil Denton - Vancouver  
Mike Scott - Richland  
Dave Cazier - Richland  
Justin Raffa - Richland  
Kent Wilson - Wilsonville, OR

## Alto

April Duvic - Vancouver  
Stacy Brown - Lacey  
Twyla Brunson - Kent  
Karen Fulmer - Kent  
Solveig Holmquist - Salem, OR  
Janet Reiter - Yacolt  
Rhonda Catchpole - La Center  
Margaret Green - Vancouver  
Meg Stolmann - Spokane  
Tracy Schwab - Gresham, OR  
Jinshil Yi - Tacoma WA

## Bass

Billy Buhl - Vancouver  
Erik Edmundson - Camas  
Brian Hoskins - Renton  
Brian Mitchell - Longview  
Jeff Selden - Ellensburg  
Daniel Schreiner - Lake Tapps  
Reg Unterseher - Richland  
Nelson Green - Moses Lake  
Sydney Guillaume - Portland,  
OR  
Justin McLeod - Vancouver

# Chamber Choir

## Soprano

Sofia Strandjord  
Moirra McGregor  
Kristina Svistunov  
Maria Kramer  
Morgan Lenz  
Ashley Both  
Nicole Loveless  
Alex Stevahn

## Alto

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

## Tenor

Trevor Patnode  
Jakob Kennicutt  
Dallin Millard  
Christopher Lerch  
Luca Castillejo  
Jared McDonald

## Bass

Jaykub Willis  
Jared Loveless  
Trevor Stowell  
Andrew Gomes  
Aidan Marano  
Kael Bartness  
Wyatt Webberley

**The CWU Chamber Choir** carries a tradition of excellence in choral performances at the Department of Music. As the flagship choral ensemble, The CWU Chamber Choir embraces innovation of choral performance in the 21st century and provides performing experiences ranging from the major choral masterworks and masterpieces of the a cappella tradition, to contemporary and world music, both sacred and secular. As a professional training ensemble, the Chamber Choir develops skills and professionalism and explores a variety of vocal techniques in relation to the choral literature.

Under the leadership of Dr. Nicole Lamartine, the Chamber Choir was selected as one of six choirs in the US to premiere the 2024 Brock Commission at NW ACDA in 2024 and was a featured performance choir for the state music educators conference. Since 2022, Chamber choir has premiered works by André Thomas, Jason Harris, Forrest Pierce, and Tim Ribner. Each year, the Chamber Choir performs its showcase concert, "Chamber Choir by Candlelight," which is beloved by the Ellensburg community.

# The Conductors



**J. Howard Meharg, Founder of  
Chor Anno and Associate Conductor**

Howard taught vocal music in SW Washington for over 30 years. He also directed church choirs and community groups. His professional work includes singing in two tours of the Norman Luboff Choir. He has been active in ACDA since the mid-1960s, including two terms as WA ACDA president. He began the websites for both Washington and NWACDA and served as web-person for 20 years. He was the 2008 recipient of NWACDA's Leadership and Service Award. In 1982 he founded, along with colleagues Bruce Browne and Larry Marsh, Male Ensemble Northwest, a group that continues to astound audiences with virtuosity today. He founded Chor Anno in 2009. Chor Anno is based on the same idea... that choral directors can sing beautifully and thoroughly enjoy that opportunity.



**Brian Hoskins, Collaborator, Chor Anno**

Brian has degrees in music education from Washington State University and from the Steinhardt School at New York University. He currently serves as the choral director Lindbergh High School in Renton, Washington. He is a two-time recipient of the "Ahead of the Class: Excellence in Teaching Award" given to outstanding teachers by the Renton Chamber of Commerce. Brian studied choral conducting in New York with Francisco Nunez, founder of the Young People's Chorus of New York City and world-renowned composer. Brian has accompanied MENC and ACDA honor choirs as well as for the Young People Chorus of New York University. Brian is currently Co-Director of the Rainier Youth Choir's Consonare.



**Dr. Nicole Lamartine**  
**Director of Choirs**  
**509-963-1616**  
**Nicole.Lamartine@cwu.edu**

**Dr. Nicole C. Lamartine** serves as Director of Choirs at Central Washington University, where she acts on her values of empowering the next generation of choral educators and cultivating excellence in 21st century choral performance. She conducts the well-known CWU Chamber Choir, Vox Divina, and

teaches courses in conducting, voice, and choral music education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Since 2022, the CWU Chamber Choir under Dr. La's leadership has performed at the 2024 NW ACDA Conference and at the 2024 Washington Music Educators conference. They have published six videos on YouTube, and premiered five new works from Cristian Grases, Forrest Pierce, and André Thomas.

As a clinician and guest conductor of three international honor choirs, fifteen All-State choirs, the 2014 NW ACDA TTBB Honor Choir, and numerous regional honor choirs, Dr. La seeks to positively impact choral musicians all over the world. She recently was headlining clinician and conductor of the 8th International Intensive Seminar of Choral Conducting in Costa Rica in February 2024 and conducted the 2023 Idaho International Choral Festival High School Honor Choir. She is slated to conduct the Southern Division ACDA SSAA Honor Choir in 2026.

An avid champion for music education, Dr. La has headlined conferences of the Association for Music in International Schools (Hong Kong), Washington Music Educators Association, and Montana Music Educators Association (in 2025). She headlined the 2024 Utah ACDA Summer Conference and was the clinician in residence for the 2024 WI ACDA Next Direction conference for college and high school choral musicians. Dr. Lamartine's research focuses on rehearsal technique and anatomy and movement for conductors and she is in-demand as leader of choir retreats and teacher in-services.

Prior to her appointment at CWU, Dr. La held Director positions at University of California, Santa Barbara (2020-2022), the University of Wyoming (2008-2020), and the University of Northern Iowa. Her choirs were honored to sing at several national and regional conferences of ACDA, NCCO and NAFME. She is a recognized expert in females conducting tenor/bass choirs.

She conducts the American Prize© - winning Chor Anno (Vancouver, WA) and 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.

### **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

Brittany Stahley

### **Save the Date:**

CWU Choirs with Symphony Orchestra

Carl Orff's Carmina Burana

Saturday May 31, 2025 7pm

Sunday, June 1, 2025 4pm

Tickets on sale now!

CWU Choirs "Dessert Concert"

Sunday, June 8, 2025 4pm

## **Donations**

The CWU Choral Foundation serves to support the ongoing mission of Central Washington University Choral activities. Are you inspired to support what you are experiencing? Please contact Dr. Nicole Lamartine, Director of Choirs: [nicole.lamartine@cwu.edu](mailto:nicole.lamartine@cwu.edu) or 509-963-1616



1. Scan or tap code
2. Scroll down and select "Give to Music other" and write "choir" in the comments box.
3. Choose Donation Amount and Designation "CWU Choral Foundation."

## **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](mailto:nicole.lamartine@cwu.edu) or 509-963-1616

## Music Department Calendar of Events

May 17, 4:00pm	Ashlyn Crocker, Violin Recital*
May 17, 6:00pm	Lilia Sanders, Double Bass Recital*
May 17, 8:00pm	Brad Dowson, Trombone Recital*
May 18, 2:00pm	Horn Studio Recital*
May 18, 4:00pm	Nicole Loveless, Voice Recital*
May 18, 6:00pm	Andrew Gomes Voice Recital*
May 18, 8:00pm	Gavin Ma, Collaborative Piano Recital*
May 20, 6:00pm	Alexi Loehding, Flute Recital*
May 20, 7:00pm	Percussion Ensemble Concert+
May 21, 6:00pm	Saxophone Studio Recital 1*
May 21, 8:00pm	Saxophone Studio Recital 2*
May 23, 6:00pm	Jakob Kennicutt, Voice Recital*
May 23, 7:00pm	Caitlyn Leners and Arlette Villalobos Joint Voice Recital+
May 23, 8:30pm	Hannah Lee, Percussion Recital*
May 24, 12:00pm	Anya Degroot, Percussion Recital*
May 24, 2:00pm	Julia Mcconnachie, Horn Recital*
May 24, 4:00pm	Camille Brennan, Voice Recital*
May 24, 6:00pm	Brian Cardenas, Flute Recital*

**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.

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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.*