



## The Music of Ēriks Ešenvalds

Dr. Richard Nance, Guest Conductor

**April 23-25, 2019 – Rome, Italy with an extension to Florence and Venice**

This festival is about making terrific music with other choral musicians from across the United States. **Ēriks Ešenvalds** will serve as the festival's Conductor-in-Residence and Dr. Rickard Nance will serve as the Guest Conductor in rehearsals and formal performance at **St. Marks Episcopal Cathedral** in Seattle, WA, serving as the backdrop for a wonderful and memorable music making experience for all!

**An inspiring and captivating experience awaits you and your singers!**

**The Festival Repertoire is listed below. All participants are expected to order, purchase, and prepare ON YOUR OWN.**

**Contact your preferred music retailer – Our preferred retailer is Musical Resources (Toledo, OH) - [orders@musical-resources.com](mailto:orders@musical-resources.com)**

### **FESTIVAL REPERTOIRE:** \*All music written or arranged by **Ēriks Ešenvalds**

The program is 42 -minutes of music with consideration being based on participating ensembles being able to effectively rehearse the repertoire in your own home venue and then bringing it all together in a very condensed festival chorus rehearsal time. The list includes some of his more familiar, beloved pieces, and also some of his new works and showcases a variety of styles.

#### **Salutation (3:41)**

Ēriks suggests this is the best piece to open with. The text is by Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941). It was commissioned by the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain. Primarily 6-part writing, flowing 9/8, 12/8, some nice big moments, mostly homophonic.

#### **I Traveled The Old Road (5:00)**

This is a new piece by Ēriks, composed for Drake University. The text is by Tagore again, and it is set with four soloists (SATB) in popular style, supported by primarily 6-part writing for the choir. The full choir sings a couple of verses as well. One innovation here is the use of a beat box rhythmic underlay, and there is a part for harmonica (which could be played by a clarinet or other wind instrument). Ēriks and Dr. Nance will audition the soloists and beat boxer at the festival.

### **Rivers of Light** (6:00)

This fantastic piece was composed in 2013, and features texts by Arctic explorers Charles Francis Hall, Fridtjof Nansen along with other various writings about the northern lights. The setting is incredibly vibrant and visual. It requires mezzo and baritone soloists, along with jaw harp.

### **Stars** (4:30)

One of Ēriks' best-known pieces, on a wonderful text by Sara Teasdale. Requires water-tuned glasses.

### **There Will Come Soft Rains** (4:00)

Lush and powerful, this piece poses the question of what life on earth might be like following the demise of humans, and answers that life will go on without us.

### **My Love Is Like A Red, Red Rose** (3:52)

This is Ēriks' arrangement of the familiar Scottish tune with text by Robert Burns. There are male and female solos (midrange), and a part for recorder that could be played by a member of Choir of the West.

### **A Shadow** (8:00)

This work was composed for the BBC Proms Youth Choir in 2018. The text is by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and it asks the question "what will become of the next generation after this one is gone." Longfellow answers - "The world belongs to those who come the last, they will find their hope and strength as we have done. The setting calls for several metallophones/glockenspiels.

### **Trinity Te Deum** (7:00)

This triumphant piece was written when Ēriks was in residence in Cambridge, England. It is a straightforward setting of the Te Deum text (in English), set in continuous three sections. Featuring professional brass players and harpist. It will make a great closing work for the program.

## About Ēriks Ešņvalds



**Ēriks Ešņvalds** is one of the most sought-after composers working today, with a busy commission schedule and performances of his music heard on every continent. After study at the Latvian Baptist Theological Seminary and the Latvian Academy of Music, he was a member of the State Choir Latvija. In 2011 he was awarded the two-year position of Fellow Commoner in Creative Arts at Trinity College, University of Cambridge. Ēriks has won multiple awards for his work and undertakes many international residencies working on his music and lecturing.

Recent premieres include *Lakes Awake at Dawn* for the Boston Symphony Orchestra and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, *Whispers on the Prairie Wind* for Utah Symphony and the Salt Lake Vocal Artists, *St Luke Passion* for the Latvian Radio Choir and Sinfonietta Riga, the major multimedia symphony *Nordic Light* in the US, Canada, and Germany, as well as commissions from the BBC Proms, Gewandhaus Leipzig, and Grant Park Music Festival, Chicago. His full-scale opera *The Immured* was premiered at the Latvian National Opera in 2016 to great acclaim. 2018 saw the premiere of his second major multimedia symphony based on volcanoes.

His compositions appear on recordings from Trinity College Choir, Cambridge and Polyphony with Britten Sinfonia on Hyperion, Portland State Chamber Choir on Naxos, Latvian Radio Choir and Sinfonietta Riga on Ondine, ORA on Harmonia Mundi, and VOCES8 on Decca Classics, amongst others.

# About Dr. Richard Nance



**Richard Nance** is Director of Choral Activities at Pacific Lutheran University, where he conducts the Choir of the West and Choral Union. He also teaches the choral conducting sequence and supervises student teachers. Prior to coming to Pacific Lutheran, Dr. Nance taught at Amarillo College and in public schools in Texas and New Mexico. Nance holds bachelors and masters degrees from West Texas State University and the DMA degree from Arizona State University. He has studied conducting with Hugh Sanders, Douglas McEwen and David Stocker, and studied composition with Joseph Nelson and Randall Shinn.

Dr. Nance is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association, and has served as ACDA President for the state of Washington, President of the Northwestern Division, and as the Choral Reviews Editor for the Choral Journal. Six choirs under Nance's direction have been selected to appear at ACDA regional conferences. He conducted the PLU Choral Union in performance at the 2001 ACDA National Convention in San Antonio and the Choir of the West at the 2013 ACDA National Conference in Dallas. The Choir of the West was selected to be a featured choir at the 2015 National Collegiate Choral Directors Association Conference, and presented a concert under the direction of conference headliner Simon Carrington. Dr. Nance's choirs have toured Europe on several occasions and have appeared at prestigious festivals, winning Gold awards at the 2011 Harmonie Festival in Lindenhof, Germany (Choir of the West) and the 2014 Florence International Choir Festival (Choral Union Tour Ensemble). Under Nance's direction the Choir of the West and PLU Chamber Singers won Gold certificates and first place in three categories at the 2015 Anton Bruckner Choir Competition in Linz, Austria, and Choir of the West received the "Anton Bruckner Award" for winning the entire competition.

Richard Nance has been recognized for his work as conductor and scholar, having received the 2011 and 2013 "American Prize" for Choral Conducting, the "Outstanding Conductor" award at the 2014 Florence International Choir Festival, and the 2013-2014 K.T. Tang Faculty Excellence Award for Research from Pacific Lutheran University. He has twice been granted Regency Advancement Awards at PLU. In July of 2010 Dr. Nance received the Washington State Leadership Award from the American Choral Directors Association, and in 2016 he received the ACDA Northwestern Division Leadership and Service Award.

Dr. Nance served as Director of Music at St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Lakewood from 1996-2009, and is an active clinician and adjudicator. His compositions have been published by Hinshaw Music, Walton Music and Colla Voce Music. Dr. Nance was chosen to write a commissioned work for the Washington All-State Choir in 2002, and wrote the 2002 Raymond Brock Memorial Composition for the American Choral Directors Association, one of the highest honors to be awarded to a composer of choral music. Other recipients of this award include: Samuel Adler, Daniel Pinkham, Eric Whitacre, Gwyneth Walker, René Clausen, Gian-Carlo Menotti, Morten Lauridsen, Mack Wilberg, Steven Sametz, Dominick Argento, Alice Parker, and Ola Gjeilo.