

2021-2022 SEASON



The National Lutheran Choir dedicates this concert
to poet and hymnwriter, Susan Palo Cherwien (1953-2021).



Susan Palo Cherwien was commissioned by the National Lutheran Choir to write the text for Lament of the Earth, one of her final major projects before receiving a cancer diagnosis. She died of metastatic uterine cancer in December of 2021 before she could hear the work premiered.

“To be in conversation with Susan was to enter a world larger than many could imagine: the trace of distant stars in the human body, the dogmatism that deadens faith, the effect of singing on the brain, Jung’s interpretation of the Mass, the elements needed for a hearty broth, the plight of migrant farm workers in Minnesota, the nightmare of political cronyism, how to write a beautiful sentence, Hildegard’s egg of the universe, and so much more.

To sit at Susan’s table was to taste the kingdom of God here on earth: no one excluded and each one welcomed with food and drink carefully prepared—the warm scone, the charred Brussels sprout, the glass of cabernet, the lamb tagine, the many recipes that became food for the hungry gladly shared.

To read, sing, pray, contemplate, memorize, and ask that her hymn texts be sung in the seasons and feasts of the year, at the baptism of one’s child, or the funeral of a parent is to do this first: give thanks to God for the art and skill bestowed upon blessed Susan who from her own mystical experience, study, and contemplation there flowed the poetry now sung around the globe, now treasured in communions not her own.”

--Samuel Torvend, Professor of Church History, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington

THE EARTH SINGS BEAUTY

I

i thank you God for most this amazing day

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

i thank You God for most this amazing
day; for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and love and wings and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any-lifted from the no
of all nothing-human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

Text by E.E. Cummings

Creation Suite

Music by Rachmaninoff/Aahlen/Gretchaninoff

Arr. Larry Fleming

Glory be to God on high, and on earth,
peace to all who hear God's word.

The earth adorned in verdant robe
Sends praises upward surging,
To join with all the universe
In thankful praises merging;
With hope and joy their songs employ
A rapturous exultation
In praise of God's creation.

Bless thou the Lord, O my soul; Bless His Holy Name.
Blessed art thou evermore, O Lord.
O Lord, my God, thou art become exceeding glorious.

When thou sendest forth thy Spirit, we are created.

Lord, how manifold are thy works;
In thy wisdom, O Lord, thou hast made them all.

When thou takest away our breath we die as to dust.

Lord, how manifold are thy works;
In thy wisdom, O Lord, thou hast made them all.

God, Almighty Father, Lord of all creation;
Glory be to thee, O Lord, thou hast made them all.

O God, amid these joys of life,
Creation's glory beaming,
Grant us the grace to keep your word
And live in love redeeming.
All flesh is grass, the flowers fade,
And time is fleeting ever;
God's word remains forever.

Glory be to God on high, and on earth, peace

Texts: Luke 2:14/Waldeman Ahlen, tr. Carolyn and Kenneth
Jennings/Psalm 104

O Colored Earth

Steve Heitzeg (b. 1959)

Black white red brown yellow birth,
blue and green, o, colored earth.
Sister Rain, Brother Stone,
bring us back to our true home.

What can I, a single soul,
do for those I don't even know?

O, I shall sing, and I shall work
for peace on earth until all are free.

Peace and love, love and peace, peace and love—
the earth is waiting.
Peace and love, love and peace, peace and love—
help one another.

No more war. No more fear.
May hunger soon disappear.
No more doubt. No more lies.
Only truth shall free the cries.
Only hope, only dreams
can erase the tears and screams.

O, I shall sing, and I shall work
for peace on earth until all are free.

Turtle and wolf, leopard and deer,
water and land—all lives are equal.
Birds and trees, people and plants,
dolphin and whale—all lives are equal.
Butterflies, kangaroos,
elephants—all lives are equal.
all lives

Sister Rain, Brother Stone,
bring us back, O colored earth.
Black white red brown yellow birth,
blue and green, o, colored earth.

Thousands of lives, thousands of lives,
thousands of lives—
each life is sacred.
sacred lives

Text by Steve Heitzeg

Brief pause (please remain seated)

II

The National Lutheran Choir would like to convey its profound gratitude to the following
for making the commission of Lament of the Earth possible:

Anne and Jim Eidsvold

The Generations of Paul and Florence Peterson

The Dale Warland Singers Commission Award

presented by Chorus America and funded by the American Composers Forum

Lament of the Earth

STEVE HEITZEG · SUSAN PALO CHERWIEN

Please hold all applause until the end of the final movement.

Earth Aria I

"The world is holy. We are holy. All life is holy. Daily prayers are delivered on the lips of breaking waves, the whispering of grasses, the shimmering of leaves."

— Terry Tempest Williams

I. God Says Beauty

In the beginning
in the beginning
of God's creating
God said
Let there be.
And there is.

The galaxy patterns the atom
the sun patterns the eye
the cloud patterns the gneiss
the whirlwind patterns the nest
And God says
Tov! Beauty!

the cavern patterns the womb
the basalt patterns the cell
the crystal patterns the bone
the mud patterns the pelt
And God says
Tov! Beauty!

the river patterns the tree
the tree patterns the leaf
the root patterns the crown
the fern patterns the frost
the delta patterns the blood
the vine patterns the branch
the lightning patterns the thought
And God says
Beauty!

the dune patterns the fur
the web patterns the wing
the snowline patterns the brain
the meander patterns the poem
And God, and God says
"Beauty!"

And creation, creation sings
"Glory!"

Text by Susan Palo Cherwien and from Genesis 1

Earth Aria II

"Power is not brute force and money; power is in your spirit. Power is in your soul. It is what your ancestors, your old people gave you. Power is in the earth; it is your relationship to the earth."

— Winona LaDuke

II. Earth Speaks: The Reproach

O my people,
what more could I have done for you
that I have not done?
Answer me.
Answer me.

My seas in your cells
My rock in your bones
My sky in your breath
My sun in your thought

Is it nothing to you
all you who pass by?
Behold and see

if there be any sorrow
like unto my sorrow...
behold and see.

Your greed soils my seas
Your waste fires my rock
Your wrath floods my sky
Your sloth clouds my sun

O my people,
what more could I have done for you
that I have not done?
Answer me.
Answer me

Text from Micah 6:3 and Lamentations 1:12 with tropes by Susan Palo Cherwien

Earth Aria III

"When the axe came into the forest, the trees said: The handle is one of us."

— an African proverb as cited by Alice Walker in "Possessing the Secret of Joy"

III: Ashamnu (We have trespassed)

O God, Mystery pulsing
through all and in all and for all that is -
God of all generations,
let our prayers rise, rise before you
let them not fade, fade like wisps of smoke
we are not made of brass
we are not loath to bow
we do not scoff, saying
"No, we have not **sinned**
we know, we know,
Indeed we have **sinned**
our ancestors have **sinned**
we have all **sinned**
against You, O God,
against You,
and against Your creation.
Ah,
we have **axed**
we have **barbed**
we have **caged**, we have **charred**
Ah—
we have **dammed**, we have **deflowered**
we have **eclipsed**, we have **empired**
we have **fenced**

we have **gorged**
we have **hoarded**
we have **ignored**
Ah...
we have **jaded**
we have **killed**
loosed, marred, nulled
we have **orphaned**
we have **poisoned**
quashed, robbed, ruined
Ah!
we have **stomped**, we have **saddened**
we have **tethered**, we have **threatened**
we have **undermined, uprooted,**
violated, wasted
we have **excluded, executed**
we have **extracted**, we have **exhausted**
we have **yawned**, we have **dozed**...
Ah.

O God, Mystery pulsing
through all and in all and for all that is -
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Amen.

Text by Susan Palo Cherwien, based on the Ashamnu, "We have trespassed", Jewish prayer from Yom Kippur

Earth Aria IV

For that brief moment when the fire-fly went out...O the lonely darkness.

– Tachibana Hokushi

IV. Hozhóogo naasháa doo: May I walk in Beauty

May I walk in Beauty like the stars
like sun on leaf, so may I walk
May I walk in Beauty like the mist
like dew on field, so may I walk
May I walk in Beauty like the breeze
like night on sky, so may I walk
May I walk in Beauty like the earth
like moss on rock, so may I walk

Beauty in my feet
Beauty in my hands
Beauty in my heart
Beauty in my eyes
Beauty in my words.

Text by Susan Palo Cherwien, based on a traditional Diné prayer

SOURCES and COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

i thank You God for most this amazing day – Text: E.E. Cummings © Oxford University Press. Reprinted with permission. Music: Eric Whitacre © 2000 Walton Music Corp.

Creation Suite – Text & Music adapted from Sergei Rachmaninoff's *All Night Vigil*, Op. 37; *The Earth Adorned* by Waldeman Åhlen, trans. Carolyn and Kenneth Jennings © 1934/1974 Walton Music Corporation; Alexander Gretchaninoff's *Psalm 104*; arr. Larry Fleming, 1996.

O Colored Earth – Text and Music by Steve Heitzeg © 1994

Lament of the Earth – © Copyright 2021 by Steve Heitzeg; Texts by Susan Palo Cherwien. Copyright © 2020 by Susan Palo Cherwien. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the author.

Excerpt from FINDING BEAUTY IN A BROKEN WORLD by Terry Tempest Williams, text Copyright © 2008 by Terry Tempest Williams. Used by permission of Brandt & Hochman Literary Agents, Inc. All rights reserved.

"Power is in the Earth" text by Winona LaDuke. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the author.

"When the axe came into the forest" as cited by Alice Walker in "Possessing the Secret of Joy". All rights reserved.

"For that brief moment" by Tachibana Hokushi. Translated by Peter Bellenson, published in *The Four Seasons: Japanese Haiku Second Series*, Copyright © 1928, 2012, by Peter Pauper Press. Used with permission. www.peterpauper.com.

ABOUT LAMENT OF THE EARTH

Commissioned by the National Lutheran Choir and Artistic Director David Cherwien, *Lamen of the Earth* is a 30-minute, multi-movement work scored for SATB chorus, youth singer/choir, alto soloist, timpani, two percussionists and strings. It is a privilege to receive this commission from such an esteemed choral ensemble. It is also an honor to have worked with Susan Palo Cherwien and to have set her powerful and moving poetry, as well as that of Terry Tempest Williams and Winona LaDuke's texts, to music. The work is dedicated to Susan Palo Cherwien, Winona LaDuke and Terry Tempest Williams for their profound love of the earth. The premiere is bittersweet and poignant for me by the mere fact that Susan died in December 2021. Her remarkable texts live on by themselves and in music here as a tribute to her vision of peace for humanity and for her passion for the earth's beauty.

The work is designed around four larger movements featuring Susan's texts and in some instances includes Biblical, Jewish and Diné quotes. The third movement is based on the Ashamnu, the Jewish prayer of atonement and the fourth movement is based on the traditional Diné poem "May I walk in Beauty". Preceding each larger movement is an Earth Aria, which acts as a kind of prelude and meditation to each larger movement.

The piece begins with the *Earth Aria I (The World Is Holy)*, which is a setting of Terry Tempest Williams' exquisitely beautiful "The World is Holy". Marked *Adagio, sostenuto*, and prayer-like, the youth singer/choir's melody floats over low E major chords in the strings, punctuated only by an ocean drum and seashell wind chimes in the percussion.

I. *God Says Beauty* opens with a full ensemble salutation to creation that rotates between jazz-infused e minor and C7 chords. This section leads to a set of variations in A minor based on the naming of many of earth's patterns. The musical patterns are intended to mirror the earthly patterns Susan so vividly describes in the texts. At the close of the movement, the opening theme returns, with even more energy.

Earth Aria II (Power is in the Earth) is a setting of Winona LaDuke's intensely powerful and deeply mysterious words. It is a kind of earth chant scored for youth singer, timpani, strings and percussion playing a hempseed and corn rattle and a wild rice and bluestem grass seed rattle.

II. *Earth Speaks: The Reproach* opens with Micah 6:3, then a trope by Susan, then Lamentations 1:12, including the "Behold and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow", a text made famous by Handel in *Messiah*, then another trope and then back to Micah 6:3. It was an intense challenge to come up with an entirely new melody to this text knowing as we all do the beautiful tenor aria in Handel's *Messiah*. The biblical quotes are sung by the alto soloist in the "Song of Sorrow"—an adagio and lament with strings; and the tropes are sung by choir and are based on a synthetic scale that constantly shifts to reflect the intensity of the text. The movement closes with the alto singing a distant, mournful and ethereal melody on the word "sorrow."

Earth Aria III (When the axe came into the forest) is based on the African proverb as cited by Alice Walker in "Possessing the Secret of Joy." Marked *Marziale*, foreboding, it is a disjointed march for chorus, youth singer whispers and percussion—claves and temple blocks.

III. *Ashamnu (We Have Trespassed)* begins as a celebratory dance in mixed meter that eventually deteriorates into an angular and violently percussive listing of the horrible destruction we have brought upon the earth and ourselves. I would call this movement "part dance of life, part protest music against violence and the destruction of the earth—be it war, pollution and human rights abuses." Overwhelmed by the list and this turbulent sonic mix of destruction, the chorus finally yells over the percussionists' hammering and the strings *col legno battuto*—all in an attempt to purge and acknowledge our wrongdoings. This gives way to the second lament for alto soloist and strings in a lyrical setting in D major of the text "Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (original melody). Again, another challenge to compose a new melody on this well-known liturgical text.

Earth Aria IV (For that Brief Moment) Percussionists play a crystal singing bowl and bamboo wind chimes as the melody slowly unfolds from the voices and strings. This is a setting of Hokushi's touching haiku about fireflies, the fragility of life and impermanence.

IV. *Hozhóogo naasháa doo: May I Walk in Beauty* (based on the traditional Dine prayer) is a ceremonial and reverent procession for peace. Honorific in its scope, the movement offers a solo for a singer in each section of the chorus and always comes back to the communal chorus. This movement travels through many keys as a metaphor for the beauty of all beings and diversity. Always moving forward in a collective pulse, the piece closes with the distant sound of youth singer/choir and alto soloist singing "beauty in my heart" over low strings holding a C major chord.

Steve Heitzeg, Composer



An advocate for the "peaceful coexistence of all species through music," Steve Heitzeg has written more than 150 works, including compositions for orchestra, chorus, chamber ensemble, ballet and PBS films. His music has been performed by leading orchestras and ensembles, including the Auckland Philharmonia, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Chanticleer, Daedalus Quartet, the Dale Warland Singers, Des Moines Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Houston Symphony, James Sewell Ballet, Minnesota Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, members of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, VocalEssence and Zeitgeist, as well as at the Cabrillo and Grand Teton music festivals.

Heitzeg received a regional Emmy Award for his original score for the public television documentary *Death of the Dream: Farmhouses in the Heartland* in 2000. Heitzeg's debut recording, *earthworks: music in honor of nature*, was released in April 1998. *O Colored Earth*, a simple plea for peace scored for children's choir, appears on *earthworks* and remains one of his most performed and popular pieces.

Heitzeg has amassed a large body of works that address social and ecological issues with vision and compassion. An environmentalist at heart, Heitzeg constructs and includes naturally-found instruments in his compositions to symbolize the interconnectedness of humans with nature.

Growing up on a dairy farm in southern Minnesota, Heitzeg studied guitar and piano as a child and wrote his first compositions, including a rock opera. Following undergraduate work at Gustavus Adolphus College, he received his doctorate in music theory and composition from the University of Minnesota School of Music, studying with Dominick Argento. Heitzeg now lives in Saint Paul with his wife, daughter, their Weimaraner and a calico cat.

Susan Palo Cherwien, Librettist



Susan Palo Cherwien (1953-2021) began writing poetry at a very young age and said that poetry helped her survive the pathos and pain of her teen years. While Susan's intent throughout most of high school was to be an astronomer or an archaeologist, she grew up singing hymns and was 'steeped in the music and poetry of the church' which ultimately led her to Wittenberg University, graduating with a major in church music. Her studies eventually led her to Berlin where she studied church music at Berliner Kirchenmusikschule and voice at the Hochschule der Künste. It was in Berlin that she met her spouse, David Cherwien. Upon returning to the U.S., Susan's deep interest in scripture, theology and spirituality led her to complete a Master of Liberal Studies in spirituality, ritual and the arts at Mundelein College in Chicago. Susan never stopped reading the writing of great thinkers, mystics, novelists and poets, and her love for science and nature were never far away. Cherwien stated, "all those threads of my life come together when I sit down to write hymns for congregational singing."

Susan composed numerous hymn texts which appear in denominational hymnals in the United States, Canada, and Europe. She authored several hymn text collections, *O Blessed Spring: Hymn Texts of Susan Palo Cherwien; Vol. II: Come, Beloved of the Maker; and Vol. III: Peace, Be Still* (all with Augsburg Fortress); as well as hymn festival reflections collected in *Crossings: Meditations for Worship, From Glory Into Glory: Reflections For Worship, and To God I Give My Melody* (all published by MorningStar Music); Susan also edited the sacred vocal collection, *To God Will I Sing* (Augsburg Fortress). She served on the ELCA Language Consultation, whose work set language guidelines prior to the development of Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

David Cherwien, Artistic Director



David Cherwien, Artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir, is a nationally known conductor, composer, and organist. Recognized for his contributions to the field of church music and liturgy, he is in demand as a clinician and hymn festival leader across the country.

David serves as Cantor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, a parish known for its passion for traditional liturgy and creative, high-quality music. He also serves as editor of the National Lutheran Choir Series published by MorningStar Music Publishers. David is a founding member of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians and has served in its leadership in a variety of capacities, including as National President. He is a member of the American Choral Director's Association, American Guild of Organists, Chorus America and Choristers Guild.

David Cherwien is a prolific composer with hundreds of publications with several publishers and is the 2007 winner of the Raabe Prize for Excellence in Sacred Composition for his piece, "The Souls of the Righteous." For the National Lutheran Choir alone, Cherwien has composed over 25 new works during his tenure with the Choir.

Clara Osowski



Mezzo-soprano Clara Osowski, who sings "from inside the music with unaffected purity and sincerity" (UK Telegraph), is an active soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and Europe. Recognized for her excellence in Minnesota, Clara was a recipient of the prestigious 2018-2019 McKnight Artist Fellowships for Musicians administered by MacPhail Center for Music.

In international competition with pianist Tyler Wottrich in March of 2017, Clara became the first ever American prize winner when she placed second at Thomas Quasthoff's International Das Lied Competition in Heidelberg, Germany. In September, the duo was also one of four to reach the finals in the very prestigious Wigmore Hall/Kohn Foundation Song Competition in London, and Clara was awarded the Richard Tauber Prize for the best interpretation of Schubert Lieder. She was given Radio-Canada People's Choice Award, third place (song division) at the 2018 Concours Musical International de Montréal, and selected as a Virginia Best Adams Fellow at the 2019 Carmel Bach Festival. In addition to performing, Clara serves as the Associate Artistic Director of Source Song Festival, a week-long art song festival in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In addition to her solo work, she participates in a number of ensembles, including Lumina Women's Ensemble and Seraphic Fire. For more information and upcoming schedule, please see ClaraOsowski.com.

The Minnesota Boychoir



The Minnesota Boychoir, now celebrating its 60th season, is the oldest continually operating boys choir in the Twin Cities. Their reputation for excellence has brought invitations from local and national music conventions, as well as sporting events and touring Broadway companies. The choir has performed with the Minnesota Orchestra, the Minnesota Opera, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony, and the Prague Philharmonic among other local and national performers. The Boychoir has traveled to five continents, with recent tours including performances at Sydney's Opera House, Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican and Montserrat Abbey in Barcelona. The Minnesota Boychoir trains young men to be outstanding musicians and strives to help them develop a sense of poise and self-confidence through education and performance.



Executive and Artistic Director Mark Johnson began his work with the Minnesota Boychoir in 1992 as the accompanist and was hired as the Artistic Director in 1993. Mark holds a degree in vocal music education from St. Olaf College and he taught junior high choral music for six years before becoming the full-time conductor of the Boychoir. From 1995 to 2007, he was a member of the staff at Albemarle, the American Boychoir School's summer music program in Princeton, New Jersey. Johnson's reputation in choral work, especially with children's groups, has led to invitations to work as a clinician, accompanist and adjudicator for honors choirs and festivals in Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Michigan, North Dakota, New York, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Mark has also served as the American Choral Directors Association Repertoire and Standards Chair for Boychoirs at the state and regional levels.

The National Lutheran Choir - Singing a Sacred and Spiritual Story



Under the direction of Dr. David Cherwien, the 60 plus member National Lutheran Choir's artistry is rooted in its mission to strengthen, renew and preserve the heritage of sacred choral music.

Founded in 1986 by Dr. Larry Fleming, the National Lutheran Choir sings a spiritual story through diverse repertoire—from early chant and simple folk anthems to complex choral masterworks and new compositions. Currently in its 36th year, the National Lutheran Choir features a roster of committed volunteer singers from a variety of faith backgrounds.

In addition to concertizing, the National Lutheran Choir enjoys frequent broadcasts on public radio and thousands of views on its YouTube channel of selected performances and concert streams. A discography of 35 recordings showcases the ensemble's music making over the years and features hymns, choral classics, contemporary works, spirituals, and major new works commissioned by the National Lutheran Choir. Much of this influential new work is featured in "The National Lutheran Choir Series," published by MorningStar Music. The Choir is the recipient of Chorus America's Margaret Hillis Award (2013) and the Dale Warland Singers Commission Award (2020).

Guest Artists

Clara Osowski, mezzo-soprano

The Minnesota Boychoir

Mark Johnson, *Executive & Artistic Director*

Luke Baker-Trinity
Aiden Berwald
James Bicek
Hayden Cesena
Teddy Childs
Brennan Cogswell
Linus Cuchetti
Jonathan Dierking

Torin Froslee
Aaron Gips
William Hanna
Kaleb Hansen
Tennyson Holmes
Joshua Homan-Dorfman
Bode Hosmer
Colby Hovde

Markiese Hudson
Toren Klopp
Easton Kroetsch
Henry Nesje
Benjamin Parish
Anthony Petruconis
Morrow Piper
Whitsun Piper

Theo Reemtsma
Falcon Scarpello
Evan Sherwood
Kai Swanson
Oskar Swanson
Fritz Thomann
Noa Walburn
Evan Walz

Orchestra

Violin 1

Marc Levine, *Concertmaster*
Emily Saathof
Maisie Block
Zach Saathoff
Emilia Mettenbrink

Violin 2

Conor O'Brien
Huldah Niles
Chi Chi Bestman
Hilary Kingsley
Stephen Sweeney

Viola

Emily Hagen
Kirsti Petraborg
Elizabeth Cregan

Cello

Lucia Magney
Diane Tremaine

Double Bass

Mark L. Kausch

Percussion

Will Kemperman
Eri Isomura

Timpani

Josh Wahlstrom

Rehearsal Accompanist: Kerri Lejeune

National Lutheran Choir

David Cherwien, *Artistic Director*

SOPRANO

Allison Ackmann
Joan Floren Memorial Chair
Katherine L. Castille
Angelica Imaginatio Chair
Ellie Demitrius
Mount Olive Lutheran Church Chair I
Karla Hanson
Chelsey Kearns
Mycah Lerum
*Generations of Paul and Florence
Peterson Chair*
Susan Mencil
Christina Myers
Sarah Olson
Brittany Rudoi*
eLJay Foundation Chair
Meredith Samuelson
Sandra and Steve Rach Chair
Lisa Schlotterback
Kate Tripoli
Emily Tryggestad

ALTO

Colleen Schaeffle Cook
Christine Cherwien*
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection Chair
Emily Skoblik Diallo
Marta Edman
Caroline Freund
Torunn Harty
Amy M. Hoff
Zanny Johnson
Jenny Kelley
Elaine and Arthur Halbardier Chair
Sarah Koepp
Rochelle Milbrath
Jill Maltrud Reid
Angelica Tenere Chair
Kaiya Ruff
Mount Olive Lutheran Church Chair II
Claire Wallace
Anne Zielske
Gwenn and Steven Branstad Chair

TENOR

Ian Cook
Joseph Crippen
Shaun Halland*
Bartz-Schreiber Chair
Seth Hartwell
Will Heller
Aaron Holmgren
Ken Holmen
Travis Karstad
Allana and Matthew Helland Chair
Andrew Kreye
Uecker Family Chair
Brian Lensch
*Kenneth C. and Dorothy A. Bailey
Memorial Chair*
Jack Strub
Dain Swanson
JT Torgeson
Mark Uecker
Seyna Poynter Chair

BASS

Steven Branstad
Alumni Chair
Phil Dahl
Kenton Hunt
Curtiss L. Strom Memorial Chair
David Johnson
Jacob Kunkel
Dave Michel
Matthew Olson
Ron Pietsch
Eli Pollock
Rob Reid*^
Danny Roth
Timothy M. Schmidt
Gill Brothers Funeral Directors Chair
Dan Streeper
Riley Unzicker
Elizabeth M. Strom Chair
Jeff Tunseth

* Section Leader

^ Choir Manager/Librarian

NLC STAFF

David Cherwien, *Artistic Director* | Tina Meckel, *Executive Director*
Sarah Anderson, *Marketing & Events Manager* | Bridgit Jordan, *Bookkeeper*
Kristin Rongstad, *Operations Manager* | Paul John Rudo, *Content & Communications Manager*

NLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brenda Bartz, *Chair* | Philip Eidsvold, *Vice Chair* | Jason Langworthy, *Treasurer*
Karen Walhof, *Secretary* | Travis Karstad, *Singer Representative to the Board*
Greg Aune | Jennifer Baker-Trinity | Steve Berg | Sandra Cline | Larry Duncan | Bowman Gray | Beverly Tipton Hammond | Matthew Helland | Zebulon Highben | Paul Hoffman | Karen Humphrey | David Johnson | David Soli | Danelle Wolf

Thank you to our Volunteers!

We would like to express our gratitude to the volunteers who donated time and talents to the Choir during the 2018-2019 season.

Paula Anderson
Julie & Greg Aune
Alexandra Bane
Brenda Bartz
Claudia Bartz
Kat & Gretchen Campbell Johnson
Larry Duncan
Lora Dundek
Joann Frankena
Judy Graves

Judith Hedman
Beth & Neil Hering
Zebulon Highben
Rachel Hylton
David Johnson
Marsha Johnson
Bridgit Jordan
Kristen Kearns
Pam & Jim Kline
Mary Pucel & Jack Langhoff

Myra Madsen
Rachel Meurett
Mitch Myre
Tammy Newman
Gail Nielson
Tom Olsen
Jason Patalonis
Cindy & John Pitts
Cha & Kurt Posz
Tim Rongstad
Clarence Smith

Mark Spitzack
Sherry Stenerson
Heather Swanson
Kay Swanson
Zach Taylor
Ginny Trogen
Becky & Tom von Fisher
Karen Walhof
Andrea Wendt
Bob Wick
Danelle & Mark Wolf
Tracy Yue

Recording *Lament of the Earth*

The National Lutheran Choir plans to release a recording of *Lament of the Earth*. A fund comprising gifts made in memory of Susan Palo Cherwien has been established to support this project. For information about how you can help us reach our goal, please contact NLC's executive director, Tina Meckel, at tina@nlca.com or (612) 722-2301, x105.



Post Concert Reception

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after the concert for conversation and light refreshments.

All are Welcome!



SAVE THE DATE

for our 2022-2023 season featuring favorites from the past 20 years with David Cherwien.

More information at
NLCA.com

November 4 & 6, 2022

All Saints, featuring the Rutter Requiem

December 9 & 10, 2022

Christmas Festival

January 14, 2023

Choral Tune Up with Dr. Anton Armstrong

March 24-26, 2023

Tour to Rochester, MN; Lincoln, NE & Sioux Falls, SD

May 5, 6 & 7, 2023

Spring Events Celebrating David Cherwien



Audition for the
National Lutheran Choir!

Auditions May 12 and 14
Callbacks on May 17

MORE INFO AT
NLCA.COM/AUDITIONS2022

**CONNECT WITH
THE NLC ONLINE
OVER THE SUMMER**



CREATE new memories
SHARE your stories
TUNE IN via livestream
JOIN our digital community today

@NLChoir

60th Anniversary Concerts

Saturday, June 4 at 4:00pm
Benson Great Hall, Arden Hills
Freewill Donation

Saturday, June 18 at 7:00pm
Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis
Freewill Donation

**minnesota
BOYCHOIR** | **60**
Helping Boys Find Their Voice | 1962 - 2022

www.boychoir.org | 651.292.3219

F. MELIUS CHRISTIANSEN 151ST ANNIVERSARY CONCERTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022
2:00 & 6:30 PM
ORCHESTRA HALL, MINNEAPOLIS MN



Celebrate this historic occasion with

The Augsburg Choir
The Concordia Choir - Moorhead
Christus Chorus - Concordia, St. Paul

The Gustavus Choir
National Lutheran Choir
St. Olaf Choir

These distinctive Minnesota choirs will appear as solo ensembles and combine to perform the world premiere of "Home," created by commissioned composer René Clausen and Minnesota poet Brian Newhouse.



Sponsored by the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota (ACDA-MN) and its F. Melius Christiansen Endowment Fund Committee



choral stream[®]

CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNITY OF VOICES.

Classical MPR's Choral Stream includes a variety of Minnesota ensembles, composers, presenters and performances. Discover a range of musical styles — from world-class to college choirs, from Baroque to Bernstein.

Listen at classicalmpr.org/choral.

99.5

classicalMPR

Made possible in part by the State of Minnesota Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, approved by voters in 2008.



Connect with the National Lutheran Choir in more ways than ever before!

HYMN FESTIVAL AT ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

January 23, 2022 - 5pm at St. John's Abbey
2900 Abbey Plaza, Collegeville, Minnesota

Join the NLC and the St. John's Boys' Choir for this ecumenical event marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This event is co-sponsored and made possible by the support of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan with funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc.

CHORAL TUNE-UP WITH TOM TRENNEY

February 19, 2022, 9 am - 12pm at Roseville
Lutheran Church

1215 Roselawn Ave. W., Roseville, Minnesota

Sing alongside the NLC under the baton of conductor and composer Tom Trenney. Visit nlca.com/tuneup to register.

GALA 2022

April 3, 2022 - 4pm

Help support the NLC's work by attending the annual gala, featuring an auction, performances, and more.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST U.S. TOUR

April 22, 2022 at Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
1245 10th Ave. E., Seattle, Washington

April 23, 2022 at Lagerquist Hall
at Pacific Lutheran University
868 Wheeler St. S., Tacoma, Washington

For the world premiere performances of *Lament of the Earth*, we return to the Pacific Northwest, where concern for the environment is paramount. The Northwest Girlchoir and local instrumentalists will join the Choir for this timely and unforgettable musical experience.

SYMPHONY OF A THOUSAND WITH MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA

June 10 and 11, 2022 at Orchestra Hall

The National Lutheran Choir will join other local choral organizations alongside the Minnesota Orchestra for Mahler's 8th Symphony in an iconic farewell performance for Osmo Vänskä.

For more information, visit nlca.com/community-events.



NATIONAL
LUTHERAN
CHOIR

P.O. Box 4395
St. Paul, MN 55104
612-722-2301
info@nlca.com