

SUN ON THE PLAINS

UNIVERSITY CHORALE

Dr. Giselle Wyers, *conductor*

Debi Johanson & Elizabeth MacIsaac, *assistant conductors*

Serena Chin, *accompanist*

PROGRAM

FIELDS/CLOUDS ..... MEREDITH MONK (b. 1942)

*Soloists:*

Krissy Terwilliger & Monica Berndt, *soprano*  
Jonah Melchert, *baritone* / David Boeckh, *tenor*

TUTTE LE BOCCHE BELLE ..... CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI (1567-1643)

*My faithless enemy dares all beautiful mouths in this black face to a kiss.  
Kisses are left stamped, like loving stars on the beautiful black veil that the sky now dons.  
O, why can't I become the sky?  
For then I'd have around my eyes a thousand stars for a thousand kisses.*

SOIR SUR LA PLAINE..... LILI BOULANGER (1893-1918)

*Toward the west, there, the sky is all golden; Across the deserted pasture, where the path falls, the penetrating odor of cut hay exhales, and it is the emotive hour when earth sleeps.  
The scythe of the harvester has passed over the land, and rest follows the work of long days;  
An occasional plough, forgotten from labor, leaves, like an uplifted arm, from the solitary furrows.  
The night in the east sprinkles its fine ashes; alone, in setting, lingers a glow of fire;  
and in the darkness, which grows little by little, the whiteness of the road is difficult to divine.  
Then all becomes somber, and thrusts into a great unity.  
The sky, darkened, rejoins the immense plain...  
Listen!... a great sigh crosses the silence...and behold how the heart of the day has ceased!*  
Poem by Albert Samain (1858-1900)

FEAR AN BHATA (Irish folk tune) ..... arr. David Mooney (b. 1964)

*I often look from the highest hill  
that I might see, oh boatman  
Will you come tonight, or will you come tomorrow  
Oh sorry will I be if you do not come at all*

*Refrain: Oh my boatman, na h oro eile  
Oh my boatman, na h oro eile  
Oh my boatman, na h oro eile  
My farewell to you wherever you go*

*My heart is broken, bruised  
Often tears are running down from my eyes  
Will you come tonight, or will I wait up for you  
Or close the door with a sad sigh?*

*Refrain*

*I gave you love and cannot deny  
It's not love that lasts a year or a season  
But a love that began when I was a child  
And that will not wither until death do take me.*

*Refrain*

GIVE ME YOUR SPLENDID, SILENT SUN..... BARLOW BRADFORD (contemporary)  
Poetry by Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

COMIN' TO TOWN..... LIBBY LARSEN (b. 1950)  
Poetry by Cowboy poet Robert V. Carr (1877-1931)

from OKLAHOMA: FINALE ..... RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN

Hello Audience, and welcome to the UW Chorale and Chamber Singers' fall concert. For University Chorale's set, we are exploring music that evokes a sensation of "vastness of the plains" and the brightness of the sun, or lack thereof. This summer, my family and I were fortunate enough to spend a week in Oregon's rugged Eagle Cap Wilderness in the Wallowa Mountains. We hiked to alpine lakes, fly-fished in streams and slept in a large meadow speckled with purple and orange wildflowers. Upon return, I discovered that University Chorale was selected to sing at the 2015 NafME regional music conference in Spokane. Fresh from the energy of being in the wild, and inspired by the idea of singing in Spokane, a city surrounded by plains and prairies, I created this program. In Monk's *Fields/Clouds*, textless motives combine to create a tapestry of sounds that bring forth a sensation of looking at a distant horizon, where fields and clouds meet in the mind's eye. In *Comin' to Town* and *Oklahoma/Finale*, uniquely American forms—cowboy poetry and musical theater—showcase the vitality of the human spirit, with joy and humor. But sometimes glancing across a wide and open space can bring longing and sadness, as in the tragic Irish folk ballade *Fear an Bhata*, which tells of a young woman's loss of her love at sea, and her daily trip to the edge of a cliff to look out at the ocean for him. In *Soir sur la Plaine*, early twentieth century composer Lili Boulanger uses forward-looking, evocative harmonies and textures to depict the moment when the sunset is so complete that the sky's edge melds with the earth's landscape. The remaining two works explore the bright warmth of sun, and the "silent sun" (night). Monteverdi's *Tutte le bocche belle* is an alba (a song to be sung in the early morning to a secret lover) that imagines how every star in the sky represents a kiss, a physical "mark against darkness" for eternity. Utah-based composer Bradford's *Give me your Splendid, Silent Sun* celebrates Walt Whitman's genius poetic sense, and speaks of setting up home, family and farm complete with "serene-moving animals, teaching content." May tonight's program "teach a content" for you, drawing you away from the busyness of life for a short respite.

— Giselle Wyers, *conductor*

— INTERMISSION —

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*living on the edge...*

UW CHAMBER SINGERS  
Dr. Geoffrey Boers, *conductor*  
Leann Conley Holcom & Ryan Ellis, *assistant conductors*  
Serena Chin, *accompanist*

PROGRAM

*...of dark and light:*

REMEMBER NOT LORD, OUR OFFENCES ..... HENRY PURCELL (1659-1695)

*...of light and dark:*

SPIRITED LIGHT (2014) ..... JAKE RUNESTAD (b. 1986)

*...of day and night:*

DER ABEND (*sung in German*) ..... RICHARD STRAUSS (1864-1949)

*Bright beaming god! Sink.*

*The plains are thirsting for refreshing dew, the people are weary.*

*Lo! Thy steeds are panting. Phoebus descend into the sea.*

*Behold the one who beckons you, buoyed up, and sweetly smiling on the sea's deep crystal wave.*

*Does your heart recognize her? Faster fly the steeds—the divine Thetys beckons.*

*The driver leaps from his chariot into her arms. He throws the reins to Cupid.*

*The steeds stand still, and drink from the cool, crystal flood.*

*Heaven's wings unfold, and silently, gently comes the soft night.*

*Sweet love comes. Rest and love! Phoebus, the loving one, rests.*

*...of death and life:*

MY FLIGHT FOR HEAVEN (2008) ..... BLAKE R. HENSON

*...of earth and heaven:*

LAUD TO THE NATIVITY (*sung in Italian*) ..... OTTORINO RESPIGHI (1879-1936)

*Final Scene and Chorus*

*Glory to God in the Highest, all honor and praise to the Almighty,*

*And peace to all on earth who are of good will.*

*To save the world from evil, you came in humility, not in obligation.*

*O child of heavenly beauty, we laud you, extol you, Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Mary: Upon me God bestowed his favor, and I will never cease to praise him,*

*I bore to the world a savior, who will be king forever, I bow in humble devotion, over the child*

*who has come to save us. No rose was ever fairer, his beauty fills my heart with deep emotion.*

*My thoughts I cannot capture, my spirit lifts in rapture, it soars ever higher, for born is the promised*

*Messiah. Amen*

*...of life, and peace:*

THE PEACE OF WILD THINGS ..... JAKE RUNESTAD

Good Evening. We are thankful that you are here to share with Chamber Singers in our evening's program *living on the edge...* an interweaving of text and tune that describes an artist's life—living on the razors edge of life and creativity. The friction of the whetstone—where blade, water, steel, and stone meet to create an ever-sharpening blade—is that same friction in life that generates human creativity, growth and beauty.

We begin with *Remember Not Lord Our Offences*, a somber prayer that the sinful might receive freedom in grace, listen for the spicy, Purcellian dissonance on the words "sin" and "spare us, good Lord." Next we shift suddenly from darkness searching for light to *Spirited Light*, an uplifting fanfare of rhythm, soaring and rising patters and glissandi, voices in very high registers that capture the movement of light uplifting darkness so that the "mudbound spirit might soar." Richard Strauss' epic *Der Abend* is a tone poem of the more traditional sort, a through-composed dramatic rendition of text. Normally an orchestral work, think *Don Juan* or *Death and Transfiguration*, this is an orchestral work for sixteen part chorus, depicting the setting of the sun "Phoebus" into the arms of his lover "Thetys" the sea. *My Flight to Heaven* is a "death and transfiguration" of sorts. Set to a text by Shakespeare, the poet speaks to death as release of pain, and comfort for the weary, so that he might "take flight." The final scene of Respighi's *Laud to the Nativity*, is a traditional telling of the shepherds-angels-Mary and baby story, through the lens of his particular madrigal-meets-Puccini-*Pines of Rome* splendor. Mary sings a wistful *arioso* as if lamenting her state, when she is suddenly interrupted by the angels' chorus. The choir then sings a beautiful lullaby followed by final exhortations by Mary accompanied by the angels' lush "Amens." Who of us has not laid awake at night, pondering and wrestling with life? We close tonight's program with *Peace of Wild Things* which describes the loneliness of the night transitioning into hopefulness as the poet considers "my thoughts turn to the Peace of Wild things, who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief." Images of grace and light, woven through tonight's program, return for a final bittersweet, conclusion.

—Geoffrey Boers, *conductor*

## CHAMBER SINGERS

### SOPRANO

Yelena Bagdasarova, Twin Falls, ID  
Claire Biringer, Appleton, WI  
Becca Cantrell, Tempe, AZ  
Leann Conley-Holcom, Tacoma, WA  
Michelle Avila Dobbs, Lombard, IL  
Rebecca Herivel, Lynwood, WA  
Elizabeth MacIsaac, Nainaimo, BC, Canada  
Rose Rubel, Lake Oswego, OR  
Victoria Solenberger, Santa Cruz, CA  
Meghan Stavig, Edmonds, WA  
Brianna Valencia, Woodland, CA

### ALTO

Jocelyn Beausire, Niwot, CO  
Maggie Boeckman, Saint Louis, MO  
Alice Carli, Los Altos, CA  
Makaela Joy, Roy, WA  
Debi Johansen  
Emily Leopold, Anacortes, WA  
Regina McCarthy, Bellingham, WA  
Brenda Mohr, Glendale, CA  
Sarah Moyer, Grass Valley, CA  
Christine Elise Oshiki, Olympia, WA  
Sabrina Otness, Mukilteo, WA  
Becca Sherman, Yakima, WA

### TENOR

Joel Bevington, Albany, OR  
Patrick Borrer, Oklahoma City, OK  
Hayden Casey, Sparks, NV  
Mason Cole, Anacortes, WA  
Ryan Ellis, Seattle, WA  
Anthony James, Malo, WA  
Jeffrey Larkin, Salem, OR  
Stephen O'Bent, Hanover, NH  
Pablo Piantino, Mendoza, Argentina

### BASS

Philip C. Arbaugh, Olympia, WA  
Kasey Castro, Seatac, WA  
Jacob Finkle, Niskayuna, NY  
Andy Larson, Bothell, WA  
Leif Layman, St. Paul, MN  
Jonah Melchert, Puyallup, WA  
Jeremy Morada, Loma Linda, CA  
Eric Mullen, Iowa City, IA  
Ryan Mullaney, Cumberland, MD  
James Wilcox, Seattle, WA

## UNIVERSITY CHORALE

### *SOPRANO*

Mina Barakatain: Mukilteo, WA, Physics  
Leah Bowd: Ferndale, WA, Math  
Yoojeong Cho: Seoul, South Korea, Vocal  
Performance  
Addie Francis: Seattle, WA, Vocal  
Performance  
Denna Good-Mojab: Portland, OR, MM Vocal  
Performance  
Jessica Haagen: Pullman, WA, English  
Hallie Hominda: Auburn, WA, History  
Amy Kuefler: Winnipeg, Manitoba- Section  
Leader, MM Vocal Performance  
Vivian Lyons: Seattle, WA, Epidemiology and  
Maternal and Child Health  
Sydney Manning: Anchorage, AK, Psychology  
Anna Mikkeltorg: Fox Island, WA- Section  
Leader, Law, Societies and Justice  
Alexis Neumann: Encinitas, CA  
Kristina Terwilliger: Suffern, NY, Vocal  
Performance  
Erica Weisman: Austin, TX, Vocal  
Performance  
Iris Wagner: Lafayette, CA

### *ALTO*

Monica Berndt: Quincy, WA, Art  
Rasika Bhalerao: Redmond, WA, ACMS  
Mairin Hackett: Bothell, WA, Science  
Stephanie Hobart: Agoura Hill, CA, Vocal  
Performance  
Alison Johnson: Las Vegas, NV, Vocal  
Performance  
Marcy Landes: San Mateo, CA, Marketing  
Lydia Lee: Taipei, Taiwan, Psychology  
Amber Moore: Boise, ID- Secretary, Art  
Micaela Prince: Kirkland, WA, Music  
Education  
Esther Ranjbar: Eugene, OR, International  
Studies  
Alta Steward: Portland, OR- Vice President,  
Math  
Amanda Williams: Gig Harbor, WA- Social  
Media Chair, Math  
Anna Vara: Mukilteo, WA- Section Leader  
and Social Chair, Music Education  
Erika Van Horne: Mill Creek, WA- President,  
Economics

### *TENOR*

Michael Bang: Mukilteo, WA, History  
David Boeckh: Seattle, WA, UW Academy  
Ezra Boyer: Olympia, WA, PreMajor  
Andrew Briggs: Palo Alto, CA, Science  
Hayden Casey: Reno, NV, Humanities  
Mason Cole: Anacortes, WA- Section Leader  
and Social Chair, Music Education  
Jason Kinsfather: Woodinville, WA  
Joe Koch: Vancouver, WA, Electrical  
Engineering  
Michael Norman: San Antonio, TX, Science  
Brian Ramaley: Bellevue, WA, Aeronautics  
and Astronautics  
Nick Reynolds: Section Leader, Music  
Education  
Bradyn Rookard: East Wenatchee, WA, Art  
Jordan Schuelzke: Vancouver, WA,  
Engineering  
Cameron Simons: Longview, WA, Science  
Nicholas Tagab: Section Leader, Piano  
Performance  
Kyle Ueland: Prosper, ND, Vocal Performance

### *BASS*

Marijn Burger: Lake Oswego, OR-  
Historian/Blog, Physics  
Kassey Castro: Seattle, WA, Head Section  
Leader, Music Education  
Maxwell Crabill: Anacortes, WA  
Erich Hoffer: Mukilteo, WA, Engineering  
Paul Johns: Free Soil, MI, Non-Matriculated  
Andrew Larson: Bothell, WA- Section Leader,  
Post-Bac Music Ed  
Fredrik Mansfield: Seattle, WA  
Jonah Melchert: Puyallup, WA, Music  
Education  
Evan Shelton: Puyallup, WA- Concert Chair,  
Engineering  
Chris Steckler: Mill Creek, WA- Treasurer  
Tyler Stevens: Mercer Island, WA, Music  
Education  
Shawn Swanson: Poulsbo, WA, Materials  
Science and Engineering  
Andrew Tang: Palo Alto, CA  
Byron Walker: Mangilao, Guam- Concert  
Chair  
Nic Varela: Tucson, AZ- Section Leader-  
Publicity Chair, Vocal Performance