

Come to

the Woods



Oregon
Repertory
Singers



Download Digital Program

Saturday, May 13 | 4 PM
Sunday, May 14 | 4 PM

With Special Guest Jake Runestad

Video-on-Demand Concert
Available June 5-30 (On Sale Now)

First United Methodist Church
1838 SW Jefferson Street, Portland, OR

Oregon Repertory Singers performs world-class music accessible to all. Our professional-caliber adult choir of over 100 members was recently lauded as "the city's finest large choir." Our education and performance-based youth choir program serving children grades K-12 is one-of-a-kind in the Portland area. We are committed to world-class performances, exceptional education, and nurturing the singers, listeners, and supporters of this generation and the next.

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Naomi LaViolette, Accompanist

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Linda Tatarsky, Collaborative Pianist
Stacey Philipps, Composer-in-Residence
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* Singer with Oregon Repertory Singers
† Parent of ORS Youth Choir singer



Oregon
Repertory
Singers

605 Portland Avenue #445
Gladstone, OR 97027
ORSingers.org | 503-230-0652

FOLLOW ORS



Welcome

Welcome to our final concert of Oregon Repertory Singers' 49th season. Much like our spring concert last year, we're bringing together our two programs for an exceptional collaborative experience all while featuring the music of EMMY®-winning & GRAMMY®-nominated composer Jake Runestad. I am new to Jake's music and it has been a great pleasure to familiarize myself with his work these past few months, especially when listening to our singers rehearse in preparation for today's exciting concert.



Our 49th season was filled with so much to celebrate:

Oregon Repertory Singers premiered *Path of Miracles* at The Reser, recorded an album with Steve Barnett (to be released in late 2023), and are preparing for a European tour this July.

Oregon Repertory Singers Youth Choir expanded into three satellite locations (Beaverton, SE Portland, and Vancouver)—which increased enrollment to its largest in our history—awarded over \$25,000 in full or partial scholarships to nearly 35% of youth choir singers, and has commissioned a piece by Composer-in-Residence Stacey Philipps to be premiered on June 4 right here at First United Methodist Church.

In the fall, both ORS and ORS Youth Choir will be celebrating milestone anniversary seasons; ORS enters its 50th season and the youth choir program will begin its 30th. If you thought this season was great, I promise you, the best is yet to come! A season sneak peek can be found in today's program.

The time, talent, and treasure that so many of you have brought to this organization for the last 49 years has put us right here, in a healthy and thriving position, planning and dreaming about what the next 50 years will look like. We are filled with excitement and incredible momentum. I am inspired by your commitment to investing in valuable music programs in our city. The work, the music, and the programs are made possible because of your generosity and patronage.



Thank you for being a part of elevating the choral art form in our community for 49 years and counting.

With gratitude,

Lauren Bryan
Executive Director

Come to the Woods

Concert Program

Dr. Ethan Sperry, Artistic Director & Conductor

Lisa Riffel, Assistant Conductor

Naomi LaViolette, Accompanist

This concert has been digitally recorded and will be available video-on-demand beginning June 5. Tickets on sale now at ORSingers.streamaltix.com.

The concert today will be approximately 90 minutes in length with no intermission.

Regina Coeli, K. 276 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Text from Catholic Liturgy

(1756–1791)

Soloists

Saturday: Aliyih Bristol, Alison Ellsworth, Peter Haub, Paul Plett

Sunday: Lauren Storz, Ava Rose, Justin Peters, Miles Rigby

"Urlicht" from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* Gustav Mahler

arr. Clytus Gottwald (1925–2023)

(1860–1911)

Text from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* and Annette von Droste-Hülshoff

Christus factus est Anton Bruckner

Text from the Catholic Liturgy

(1824–1896)

***The Runner* Joshua Rist**

Text by Roger Weaver

(b. 1988)

***Ritual* Jake Runestad**

(b. 1986)

Soloist

April Vanderwal

Percussionists: Kate Ledington and Josh Weir

***And So I Go On* Jake Runestad**

Text by Todd Boss

Soloist

Mark Woodward

***Come to the Woods* Jake Runestad**

Text by John Muir

Featuring special guest Jake Runestad

YOUTH CHOIR SELECTIONS

Aubrey Patterson, Artistic Director and Conductor

Cindy Mair, Collaborative Pianist

with special guests from the Portland Youth Philharmonic
Yoojin Kang, violin; Ayah Atay, violin; Maisy Sturman, viola; Pearl Liao, cello

"Flower Into Kindness" from *Into the Light*.....Jake Runestad

Text by Mechthild von Magdeburg and Rabindranath Tagore

Soloists

Ian McGuire, Quinn Vanderwal, Fiona Vanderwal, Jordan McGrath, Qusavon Pathomsat

"Wild Forces" from *The Hope of Loving*Jake Runestad

Text by St. Francis of Assisi

Translation by Daniel Ladinsky

***I Will Walk You Home* Joshua Rist**

Soloists

Joshua Rist with Melba Elbon (Saturday) and Luci LaViolette (Sunday)

COMBINED CHOIRS

***Let My Love Be Heard*Jake Runestad**

Text by Alfred Noyes

***Nyon, Nyon*Jake Runestad**

2022-2023 Season Partners



Program Notes

Welcome to the final concert of our 49th Season! We are so excited to have composer and conductor Jake Runestad in town to lead us in performances of many of his finest choral works. As you will hear, he has quite a range as a composer from the most profound settings of deeply moving poems, to the ability to bring nature to life in music, to the genuinely fun and silly which is often the hardest kind of music to write for a choir.

My first encounter with Jake's music was *Let My Love Be Heard*. It was clear to me that I was listening to the work of a gifted story-teller. He took a few short lines of text and created an amazing soundscape from them, repeating the titular line as a mantra building in desperation with every repetition. It so perfectly captures the moment we are living in that I believe it will come to be seen as one of the great anthems of its time.

And then I heard *Come to the Woods* in which Jake crafted his own libretto from the writings of John Muir. This piece is truly transcendent, taking Muir's awe at the beauty of nature and bringing it to life in music. I have rarely felt more transported by a piece of music. Again, Jake uses the title "Come to the Woods for there is rest" and a mantra which through its repetition brings about the fulfillment of its request.

I'll let Jake tell you more about the rest of his music from the stage. The first portion of our concert consists of great selections from Mozart, Bruckner and Mahler — three composers who spent much of their musical lives in Vienna. This is all because members of Oregon Repertory Singers are headed to Europe this July where we will perform at the Cantus Festival in Vienna! If you want to travel with us, you can hear many of these pieces in the spaces they were written to be performed in!!!

Another young American (and in fact Oregonian!) composer we wanted to feature on tour is Joshua Rist. He has been a regular collaborator with Aubrey Patterson, the Artistic Director of our Youth Choirs, and we are delighted to feature his music with the adult choir for the first time!!!! You will also get a chance to hear him tell you about his own music from the stage.

Thank you as always for your attendance and support! And we trust we will see you all again for an incredible line-up of events to celebrate our 50th Season next year!

Ethan Sperry, Artistic Director & Conductor

Oregon Repertory Singers Youth Choir is thrilled to be joining ORS for their season closer, *Come to the Woods*. ORS Youth Choir brings together enthusiastic singers from schools all over the greater Portland area. Learning and growing through the work and words of living composers has been transformative. Our

program builds a strong foundation of literacy and music theory (you'll hear a lot of Mixolydian mode today!), while developing independent musicianship through our repertoire.

In today's performance, you will hear our combined Middle School and High School Choir perform two pieces by guest composer, Jake Runestad, as well as a work by Oregon native, Joshua Rist. The two Runestad pieces are movements from larger works. *Flower into Kindness* explores three sets of texts through history that celebrate the conscious and unconscious choices that lead us back to the grounding life-force that is love. *Wild Forces* celebrates the powerful and chaotic forces that can exist within us, encompassing the pain and beauty of self discovery through its use of harmony. We conclude our portion of today's concert with Joshua Rist's *I Will Walk You Home*, a reassurance that though we experience fear, desperation, and doubt, there are willing hands and voices all around us to lift us up, support us, and to guide us (literally and metaphorically) home.

Join us on June 4th at 6:00 PM at First United Methodist Church as we celebrate the *Beautiful Wild Forces* within us in a full program featuring composer-in-residence Stacey Philipps's world premiere of *Like Birds, Like Stars* and all 160 singers of the Oregon Repertory Singers Youth Choir. Our kindergarten through 12th-grade singers will join together to perform works grounded "to the earth" in the folk traditions of Brazil, South Africa, Sweden, the British Isles, and the Americas, and take us on a journey "to the stars" in *Ad Astra*, *The Moon*, *Let My Love Be Heard*, and more!

Aubrey Patterson, Artistic Director & Conductor, ORS Youth Choir

Commitment to Health and Safety

ORS is dedicated to creating a safe environment for our singers, patrons, volunteers, contractors/vendors, and staff during in-person rehearsals, performances, and events.

Covid Policy

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and be a presence in our community, we will periodically update and review our policy. ORS will adhere to, at minimum, current Federal, Oregon Health Authority, and Multnomah County Guidelines regarding masks, vaccinations and distancing. Patrons may be required to wear masks, show proof of vaccination or negative test, and/or distance depending on the regulations at the time of performance. ORS will adhere to venue policies for all rehearsal and performance spaces.

The policy for First United Methodist Church Portland is dependent on the current level of community spread in Multnomah County. The details to the policy and updates to the policy can be found here: <https://fumcpdx.org/covid-19-guidelines-update-may-5/>

ORS reserves the right to require masks and social distancing and update/modify the policy at any time to implement stricter standards.

Text & Translations

Regina Coeli, K. 276Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Text from the Catholic Liturgy

Regina coeli laetare, Alleluia.

Quia quem meruisti portare, Alleluia.

Resurrexit sicut dixit, Alleluia.

Ora pro nobis Deum. Alleluia.

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

For He whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia.

He rose from the dead as He said, alleluia.

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

“Urlicht” from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*Gustav Mahler

O Röschen rot,

Der Mensch liegt in grösster Not,

Der Mensch liegt in grösster Pein,

Je lieber möchte ich im Himmel sein.

Da kam ich auf einen breiten Weg,

Da kam ein Engellein und wolte mich
abweisen,

Ach nein ich liess mich nicht abweisen.

Ich bin von Gott und will wieder zu Gott,

Der liebe Gott wird mir ein Lichtchen geben,

Wird leuchten mir bis an das ewig selig
Leben.

O red rose,

Man lies in direst need,

Man lies in direst pain,

I would rather be in heaven.

I then came upon a broad path,

An angel came and sought to turn
me back,

Ah no! I refused to be turned away.

I am from God and to God I will return,

Dear God will give me a light,

Will light my way to eternal blessed life.

Christus Factus EstAnton Bruckner

Text from the Catholic Liturgy

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens

usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis.

Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum et

dedit illi nomen,

quod est super omne nomen.

Christ became obedient for us unto death,

even to the death, death on the cross.

Therefore God exalted Him and gave Him

a name

which is above all names.

***The Runner* Joshua Rist**

Poem by Roger Weaver

The ground fits his foot perfectly as he runs,
each breath fits his lungs.

The earth pushes back with its slow spin.

While he crosses the golden field of barley,

it seems, to him, his body will burst into song.

***And So I Go On* Jake Runestad**

Text by Todd Boss

My lovely one	My lovely one
though you are gone	I am gone
taken from me	taken from you
I cannot leave you	mine in your suffering
I am not free	mine in your joy
I burn in snow	my snow will kiss you
and thirst in rain	pouring down my love
there is no sea	there is no sea
that can drown my pain	that can drown your pain
but you would want me to live	I want you to live
and love again	and love again
and so I go on	and so I go on
always	always
wherever you are	wherever you are
lovely one	lovely one

***Come to the Woods* Jake Runestad**

Text by John Muir

Another glorious day,
the air as delicious to the lungs as nectar to the tongue.

The day was full of sparkling sunshine,
and at the same time enlivened with one of the most bracing wind storms.

The mountain winds bless the forests with love.
They touch every tree, not one is forgotten.

When the storm began to sound,
I pushed out into the woods to enjoy it.
I should climb one of the trees for a wider look.

The sounds of the storm were glorious with
wild exuberance of light and motion.
Bending and swirling backward and forward, round and round,
in this wild sea of pines.

The storm-tones died away, and turning toward the east,
I beheld the trees, hushed and tranquil.
The setting sun filled them with amber light, and seemed to say,
"Come to the woods, for here is rest."

Flower Into Kindness from *Into the Light*.....Jake Runestad

The soul is made of love and must ever return to love.

There is nothing so wise,

nor so beautiful,

nor so strong as love.

(Text by Mechthild von Magdeburg)

Above all, love.

(Text by Peter the Apostle)

I shed my words on the earth

as the tree sheds its leaves.

Let my thoughts unspoken

flower into kindness.

(Text by Rabindranath Tagore, adapt. Runestad)

Beautiful Wild Forces from *The Hope of Loving*Jake Runestad

Text from St. Francis of Assisi, translation by Daniel Ladinsky

There are beautiful, wild forces within us.

Let them turn millstones inside

filling bushels that reach to the sky.

***I Will Walk You Home*Josh Rist**

I'm stranded here in a maze of doubt

With no guarantee that I'm getting out

And though my chest is choked with fear

I still feel the warmth of you drawing near

A gentle hand envelopes mine

And I feel you've come in the nick of time

Your whispered words pierce through my dark

And begin to heal my wounded heart

You tell me

I will walk you home.

Though the road is long, I will walk you home.

***Let My Love Be Heard*Jake Runestad**

A Prayer by Alfred Noyes

Angels, where you soar

Up to God's own light,

Take my own lost bird

On your hearts tonight;

And as grief once more

Mounts to heaven and sings,

Let my love be heard

Whispering in your wings.



50th Anniversary Season

**Mark your calendar for concerts & events
in the 2023-2024 season today!**

All-Night Vigil

October 21-22, 2023 | 4 PM

Patricia Reser Center for the Arts

*GEM Reception & Alumni Luncheon October 21

Glory of Christmas

December 3, 9, 10, 2023 | 4 PM

First United Methodist Church

Eternal Light

with a special commission from Matthew Lyon Hazzard

April 27-28, 2024 | 4 PM

Patricia Reser Center for the Arts

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Oregon's leading arts journal

Support Your Singers

The next great achievement and choral experience awaits your investment! Please consider a tax-deductible gift today so we can continue to enrich the community with remarkable choral music and music education as we head into our milestone 50th anniversary season.

YES! I want to support Oregon Repertory Singers!

ONLINE

ORSingers.org



PHONE

503-230-0652

M-F, 9 am - 5 pm

MAIL

PO Box 445

Gladstone, OR 97027

Checks payable to

Oregon Repertory Singers



Take your support one step further and join our treasured troupe of GEM (Give Every Month) supporters.

Thank you for generously supporting Oregon Repertory Singers!

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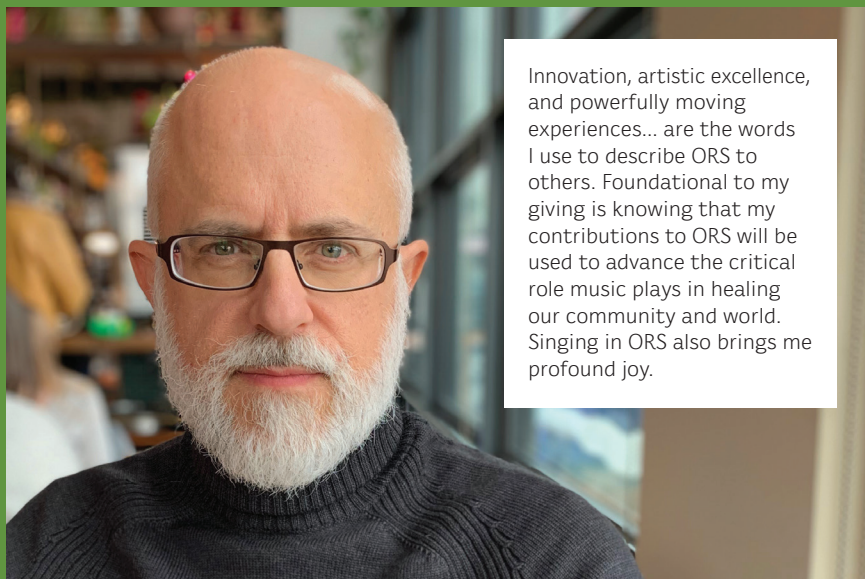
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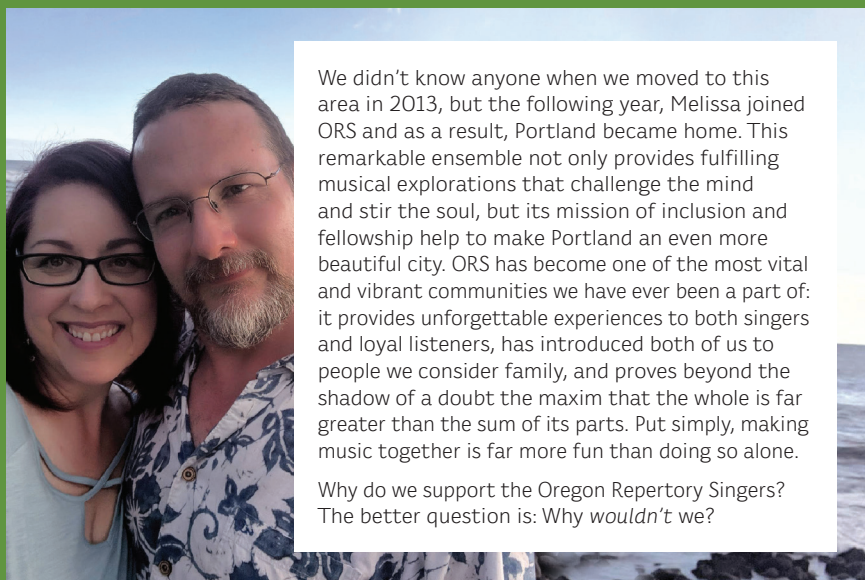
Supporter Spotlights

David Frackelton



Innovation, artistic excellence, and powerfully moving experiences... are the words I use to describe ORS to others. Foundational to my giving is knowing that my contributions to ORS will be used to advance the critical role music plays in healing our community and world. Singing in ORS also brings me profound joy.

Melissa and Matthew Canaday



We didn't know anyone when we moved to this area in 2013, but the following year, Melissa joined ORS and as a result, Portland became home. This remarkable ensemble not only provides fulfilling musical explorations that challenge the mind and stir the soul, but its mission of inclusion and fellowship help to make Portland an even more beautiful city. ORS has become one of the most vital and vibrant communities we have ever been a part of: it provides unforgettable experiences to both singers and loyal listeners, has introduced both of us to people we consider family, and proves beyond the shadow of a doubt the maxim that the whole is far greater than the sum of its parts. Put simply, making music together is far more fun than doing so alone.

Why do we support the Oregon Repertory Singers? The better question is: Why *wouldn't* we?

Oregon Repertory Singers

Oregon Repertory Singers is a premier choral arts nonprofit organization founded in 1974. The Oregon Repertory Singers adult choir, established in

1974, involves over 100 singing members who are committed to presenting world-class music experiences accessible to all, through programming of music from the newest generation of great composers alongside celebrated choral masterworks. ORS performs three major concerts each season and was awarded The American Prize in Choral Performance, Community Chorus Division, for its album release of "Shadows on the Stars" (2018-2019).

Dr. Morten Lauridsen, internationally acclaimed composer said, "This is the finest amateur large chorus I've heard anywhere in the world." (2018)

SOPRANO

Michelle Averill
Andrea Bachhuber
Laurel Barnum
Anne Barragar
Debbie Benke
Aliyih Bristol
Tina Bull
Melissa Canaday
Rachel Consenz
Jeannine Dahl-Fogel
Celine Goodbody
Tiffany Haole-Valenzuela
Mollie Horne
Sarah Hotz
Andrea Kelly
Amelia Lamb
Kate Ledington
Celia McDougal
Megan McNeal
Eva Patil
JaneAnne Peterson
Melissa Reed
Darcy Schray
Lauren Storz
Julie Quastler
April Vanderwal

ALTO

Amy Brittan
Paula Creamer
Alison Ellsworth
Linda Galante
Jen Gosnell
Lauren Haskins-Eshuis
Jeri Haskins
Rachel Hermansen
Kris Hoeveler
Darlyn Jablonski
Carla Kelley
Kate Killops
Elise Schaff Laubach
Jill Maughan
Nora McLaughlin
Joanna Meline
Hannah Moorman
Stacey Philipps
Lisa Riffel
Ava Rose
Lydia Ross
Jan Schaeffer
Kinnari Shah
Hannah Verbruggen
Liz Winship

TENOR

Chris Bailey
David Frackelton
Peter Gunn
Peter Haub
Nathan Klammer
Tom LaBarge
Kirk Masterson
Mark Mercier
Justin Peters
David Peterson
Doug Rank
Vernon Reitz
Mark Solon
Tom Swafford
Ian Timmons
Josh Weir
Ryan Wickman
Mark Woodward

BASS

Dennis Baumgardner
Curtis Brooks
Charles Coughlin
John Dabritz
Stuart Farmer
Richard Frye
John Herr
Joel Godbey
Bruce Gulliver
Joshua Kauffman
Andrew Kent
Jacob Lundgren
Dylan Moe
Dave Muller
Richard Murphy
Paul Plett
Thomas Proctor
Greg Prosser
Ken Ray
Miles Rigby
Gary Ritter
VJ Sathyaraj
Tim Siess
Steven Sletten
Rich Vanderwal
Cole Weber
Roy Wilkinson

ORS Youth Choir

The ORS Youth Choir serves over 160 young singers in three locations (Inner SE Portland, Beaverton, and Vancouver) with a growing staff of passionate educators. We meet singers in their communities, providing music education, literacy skills, and mountaintop musical experiences. Artistic Director Aubrey Patterson actively partners with area school programs as a choir clinician and sight reading specialist. Is your area right for our next satellite? Learn more and join our movement at ORSingers.org/youth-choir.



Edie Allen
Carter Bogart
Lizz Brown
Finola Cleveland
Lucia Coleman
Caitlin Duncan
Kylie Edwards
Melba Elbon
Noam Elliott
Michelle Emberlin
Jo Emery
Cassidy Fellerman
Claire Ferguson

Ramona Fugere
Emma Goldberg
Johanna Greiner
Enzo Guili
Justin Gurkin
Mykael Jyoti'smana
Hisle
Desi Holmes
Ione Jones
Oscar Jones
Rowynn Junkert
Elliot Keavney
Tarryzzzz Kemplin

Luci LaViolette
Bennett Lembo
Penny Lockwood
Lily Manek
Jordan McGrath
Elle McGuire
Ian McGuire
Maya Miller
Matilda Nicholson
Marvin Novash
Qusavon Pathomsat
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Guest Artists

Jake Runestad | Composer & Conductor

Considered “one of the best of the younger American composers” (Chicago Tribune), EMMY®-winning and GRAMMY®-nominated composer and conductor Jake Runestad has received commissions and performances from leading ensembles and organizations such as Washington National Opera, the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra & Chorus, the Pacific Symphony & Chorale, True Concord Voices & Orchestra, the Netherlands Radio Choir, the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Seraphic Fire, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and many more. “The Hope of Loving,” the first album dedicated to Jake’s choral music, recorded by professional American choir Conspirare, received a



GRAMMY® nomination. In 2019, Jake became one of the youngest composers ever awarded the prestigious Raymond C. Brock commission by the American Choral Directors Association. “Earth Symphony,” Jake’s ground-breaking choral symphony written with librettist Todd Boss, earned a 2022 EMMY® Award for musical composition. Jake’s visceral music and charismatic personality have fostered a busy schedule of commissions, residencies, workshops, and conducting engagements, enabling him to share his passion for creativity, expressivity, and community with musicians around the world.

Dubbed a “choral rockstar” by American Public Media, Jake is one of the most frequently performed composers of concert music. His thoughtful and compelling works “that speak to some of the most pressing and moving issues of our time” (Star Tribune), have been heard in thousands of performances across the globe. Jake Runestad holds a Master’s degree in composition from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University where he studied with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts. Find out more at: JakeRunestad.com.

Joshua Rist | Composer & Conductor

Joshua Rist is a native of Oregon and studied at Oregon State University where he earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in music education and where he first began his journey as a choral composer. Rist is a three-time winner of OSU's Kraft Choral Composition Challenge. His music is published through Walton, Colla Voce, earthsongs, and MusicSpoke and has been performed by choirs throughout the world. His compositions have been programmed for All-State and regional honor choirs and have been performed at State, Divisional, and National ACDA and NAFME Conventions.

Rist regularly serves as a guest conductor/educator, leading choir retreats, directing honor choirs, and working as a clinician for choral festivals. He hosts a podcast called "Composition" where he converses with composers on their creative process and their insights on life and music. While living in Eastern Oregon during the first years of his teaching career, Rist founded and directed the Two Rivers Correctional Institution Men's Chorus in Umatilla as well as the Summer Community Choir in Hermiston. Rist lives in Oregon, with his wife, Jess, and their children, Theo and Eleanor.

His extra-musical interests include photography, frisbee, ping pong, chess, gardening, and ecstatic dance.



Artistic Staff

Dr. Ethan Sperry | Artistic Director & Conductor

Hailed by *The Oregonian* for providing “the finest choral concerts in Portland in recent memory,” Dr. Ethan Sperry has been the Artistic Director and Conductor of Oregon Repertory Singers since 2011.

Dr. Sperry began studying conducting at the age of eight, cello at the age of twelve, and singing at the age of eighteen.

He has earned a bachelor’s degree in Philosophy from Harvard College and Masters and Doctoral degrees in Choral Conducting from the University of Southern California. Ensembles under his direction have toured to Argentina,

Bermuda, Canada, Chile, China, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guadeloupe, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Puerto Rico, Portugal, Russia, Spain, and Taiwan, and have performed at major venues in the United States including The Hollywood Bowl, The Kennedy Center, The Washington National Cathedral, St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City, The Nassau Coliseum, Cincinnati’s Music Hall, Boston’s Symphony Hall, and the United Nations. He recently led the Portland State Chamber Choir to victory as the first American choir ever to win the prestigious Seghizzi International Competition for Choral Singing in Italy and the Bali International Choral Festival in Indonesia, and led Oregon Repertory Singers to place second in the folk music category at the International Musical Eisteddfod in Wales, the oldest choral competition in the world. A prolific arranger of World Music for choirs, Dr. Sperry is the editor of the Global Rhythms series for Earthsongs Music, one of the best-selling choral series in the country. Dr. Sperry is also a frequent collaborator with film composer AR Rahman and has appeared as a guest conductor for him numerous times including at Bollywood Night at the Hollywood Bowl and the 2008 Filmfare Awards, the Indian equivalent of the Oscars. He is a co-host for Sounds Choral on WWFM, the only weekly radio show devoted to choral music in the United States. Dr. Sperry was the 2016 Distinguished Artist at the Civitella Ranieri in Italy. He is also Director of Choral Activities at Portland State University, where he conducts the world-renowned Chamber Choir and University Choir and leads undergraduate and graduate programs in conducting.



Lisa Riffel | Assistant Conductor

Lisa Riffel has been singing in the Oregon Repertory Singers for nine years since moving to Portland from the Los Angeles area. In that time she graduated with a Masters of Music in Choral Conducting at Portland State University and is now in her seventh year of teaching choral music at Lincoln High School. Under her leadership the Lincoln choir program has toured both nationally and internationally and consistently received high scores at local festivals and adjudications. In addition to singing with ORS, Lisa also sang professionally with the Trinity Episcopal Chamber Singers and other choral ensembles in the area. As artistic director Ethan Sperry has said, "Sight singing is her superpower." Lisa, her husband Andy, and her newborn daughter Hazel reside in NE Portland and together they enjoy singing and exploring the beautiful Pacific Northwest.



Naomi LaViolette | Accompanist

Oregon Repertory Singers' accompanist since 2004, Portland-born Naomi LaViolette earned bachelor's and master's degrees in classical piano performance from the University of Puget Sound and Portland State University, respectively. She has performed with numerous ensembles, including Portland Piano International, Choral Cross-ties, Tacoma Civic Chorus, Classical Revolution PDX, Portland Jazz Festival, Gorge Music Festival, The Vancouver Symphony and the Fleur-de-Lis piano trio.



A creative songwriter, arranger and recording artist, Naomi has released four records, most recently *Live at The Old Church with Members of the Oregon Symphony*, released February 2019. She has performed her jazz, folk and pop-infused numbers at venues such as Jimmy Mak's, Alberta Rose Theater and Doug Fir Lounge. Her choral compositions are published by Santa Barbara Publishing and widely performed by choirs, including ORS. Her work as a pianist, vocalist, arranger and composer with Steven Goodwin and the Saving His Music project has received prominent coverage in national and local news, including CBS Sunday Morning, The Week, The Oregonian, and The Saturday Evening Post. Their record, *The Nature Of Love*, spent three weeks on the Billboard New Age chart in January 2018.

Aubrey Patterson | Artistic Director & Conductor, ORS Youth Choir

Aubrey Patterson taught for twelve years as a director of choirs in Oregon high schools, currently conducts the auditioned treble ensemble at Lewis and Clark, and is the Artistic Director for the Oregon Repertory Singers Youth Choir. She holds a Bachelor of Arts with honors in music education and vocal performance, as well as a Master of Arts in Teaching with an emphasis in secondary choral music education from Oregon State University. Patterson is currently the Northwest American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Regional Resource and Repertoire Coordinator for kindergarten through twelfth grade, and the Oregon ACDA Resource and Repertoire Area Chair.



Patterson taught for six years as director of choirs at West Linn High School, growing the program to create a full-time, comprehensive choral curriculum at a 6A high school. Her program earned its first state title in 2019 (pre-Covid) and its second “consecutive” state title in 2022. Internationally, Ms. Patterson has served as director of choirs at the Sichuan, China Conservatory of Music summer camp, and as the assistant choir director of the Oregon Ambassadors of Music Europe tour. Patterson spent seven years at Corvallis High School, restructuring and cultivating a choral program that won the choir state championship in 2015, 2016, and 2017, and was invited to perform at the American Choral Directors Association Northwest Conference.

Patterson is the youngest ever Oregon-certified choral adjudicator and enjoys adjudicating, clinician work, and premiering new and commissioned works with her ensembles. She was the associate director of Corvallis Repertory Singers with Dr. Steven Zielke during her time in Corvallis and is the inaugural recipient of the Young Conductor Award from Oregon ACDA. Her passions include developing strong music literacy skills, working with singers of all ages, selecting innovative repertoire that builds empathy and understanding, establishing a choir culture that fosters leadership and collaboration, and using music to build strong communities. She enjoys the outdoors, being in water in any capacity, and adventures with her partner Nathan, new family addition Silas William, and goldendoodle Zoey Jane.

Cindy Mair | Collaborative Pianist

Cindy Mair retired in 2016 from a rewarding 36-year career teaching K-12 music in public education. Her specialties included elementary classroom music in addition to middle and high school choral instruction. She has been a collaborative accompanist for many ensembles and soloists at both the local and state level, including the Portland Symphonic Girlchoir for the past 6 seasons. Cindy is an active performer with the duo Toot Suite which also features her husband Allan on flute and saxophone.



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In Memory: Anne Mason (1947-2022)

ORS honors the contributions of long-time volunteer, Anne Mason, who regularly volunteered at ORS concerts for over 35 years. Anne peacefully passed away on November 12, 2022, from complications related to dementia. We will greatly miss her gentle, lovely spirit and attention to all things beautiful — especially her dedication to classical music and the arts.

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Upcoming Events



ORS IDOL

May 25 | 7:30 PM

Curious Comedy Theater

5225 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland, OR



ORS Idol is a NEW fundraising event that turns the highly talked about 30 minute pre-show from the ORS Virtual Galas, featuring solo and small groups, into a live and live-streamed concert. The live and at-home audiences can vote for their favorite singers or performance by texting to give. The act with the most votes will be crowned the ORS Idol winner. All proceeds will support ORS programs.

Learn more and purchase tickets: ORSingers.org.



BEAUTIFUL WILD FORCES

June 4 | 6 PM

First United Methodist Church

1838 SW Jefferson Street, Portland, OR



Oregon Repertory Singers Youth Choir closes its 29th season with music "to the earth" and "to the stars" in *Beautiful Wild Forces*, a concert featuring the works of Jake Runestad, Joshua Rist and a WORLD PREMIERE by our very own composer-in-residence Stacey Philipps, *Like Birds, Like Stars*. More than 150 youth singers will join together to perform works grounded "to the earth" in the folk traditions of Brazil, South Africa, Sweden, British Isles, and the Americas, and take us on a journey "to the stars" in *Ad Astra*, *The Moon*, *Let My Love Be Heard*, and more! Join us as we celebrate the beautiful wild forces within us on June 4 at First United Methodist Church in Portland. Learn more: ORSingers.org/youth-choir.



SUMMER SING!

July 31 - August 4 | Beaverton

August 7 - 11 | NE Portland



Summer Sing is a day camp for 1st-5th grade students focused on building community through music and arts connections. Each Summer Sing camp culminates with a final performance to showcase the creativity and music created during the week. Learn more: ORSingers.org/youth-choir.

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Learn more about ORS Youth Choir: Details and tuition available at ORSingers.org/youth-choir.



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