

50TH
S E A S O N



Oregon
Repertory
Singers

Glory of Christmas

DECEMBER 3, 9 & 10, 2023 | 4 PM

First United Methodist Church

1838 SW Jefferson Street, Portland, OR 97201

ORSingers.org



Digital Program

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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Dr. Ethan Sperry, Artistic Director & Conductor
Lisa Riffel, Assistant Conductor *
Naomi LaViolette, Accompanist †

Youth Choir Artistic & Administrative Staff

Aubrey Patterson, Artistic Director
Tommy Soultanian, Youth Choir Administrative Assistant
Koren Russ, Elementary Director (Central & West)
Amberlynn Lane, Elementary Director (North) †
Melinda Murdock, Middle School Conductor (Central)
Andrew Hancock, Middle School Conductor (North)
Katey Simmons, Like Voice Treble Conductor (Central) *
Jimmy Brown, Like Voice Changed Voices Conductor (Central)
Hannah Delgado, Elementary Conductor (K-2, Central) & Rehearsal Assistant *
Cindy Mair, Collaborative Pianist
Gary Skye, Collaborative Pianist
Linda Tatarsky, Collaborative Pianist
Stacey Philipps, Composer-in-Residence *

* Member of Oregon Repertory Singers † Parent of ORS Youth Choir singer



Oregon
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PO BOX 445
Gladstone, OR 97027
ORSingers.org | 503-230-0652

FOLLOW ORS



WELCOME

Thank you for joining us at Glory of Christmas in our 50th anniversary season! Reaching a significant milestone like this deserves extra attention and enthusiasm and you will see that on display throughout the season with thoughtful programming, exciting releases, remarkable achievements, impressive program growth, and a few surprise announcements along the way. But today, I want to draw your attention to the multiple milestones being celebrated in Glory of Christmas this season.



50 - Oregon Repertory Singers celebrates its 50th anniversary season! Artistic Director Ethan Sperry has always made it a priority to champion new music while honoring choral traditions and audience favorites which you will hear today at Glory of Christmas! In addition, we are thrilled to release a new album titled *50*, available for purchase today—a beautiful way to celebrate and mark this anniversary season.

40 - Tim Siess, ORS baritone, celebrates his 40th year of teaching and will conduct his top-notch Union High School Chamber Orchestra.

30 - ORS Youth Choir celebrates its 30th season and is on track to reach its highest enrollment in its history under the direction of Aubrey Patterson and her impressive team of music educators dedicated to creating a welcoming space for *any* singer.

20 - Naomi LaViolette has been the accompanist for ORS since 2004 and is the featured artist on the new ORS album, *50*, which is our gift to her for her longtime commitment to ORS. Additionally, ORS will premiere her new piece *Written For You*.

10 - ORS Youth Choir Composer-in-Residence, Stacey Philipps, has sung with ORS for 10 years and will premiere a new piece with the Youth Choir (12/9 & 12/10 only). She will also present—along with Aubrey Patterson and the Youth Choir—at the prestigious NW ACDA conference this January, discussing the success of the Composer-in-Residence program and her exciting Book of Rounds! Her composition, *Close Distancing*, is also featured on the album *50*.

As you can see, we have many reasons to celebrate!

Glory of Christmas has become a cherished and valued holiday tradition for our community. But even more valuable is your unwavering commitment to ORS which has been the cornerstone of our success—attending concert after concert and extending your generosity season after season. We are truly honored to have you celebrating the holiday season with Oregon Repertory Singers!



Lauren Bryan | Executive Director

Oregon Repertory Singers presents

Glory of Christmas

Concert Program

Dr. Ethan Sperry, Artistic Director
Lisa Riffel, Assistant Conductor
Naomi LaViolette, Accompanist

featuring

Union High School Chamber Orchestra
Tim Siess, Conductor

ORS Youth Choir
Aubrey Patterson, Artistic Director

This concert will be digitally recorded. Please no flash photography.
 The concert today will be approximately two hours in length including a 15 minute intermission.

“Winter” from *The Seasons* Antonio Vivaldi
 arr. Max Richter

David Teves-Tan, Violin
 Tim Siess, conductor

Gloria Antonio Vivaldi

Written for You..... Naomi LaViolette

Domini Fili..... Antonio Vivaldi
 Lisa Riffel, conductor

The Ground Ola Gjeilo

Alleluia..... Randall Thompson

Cum Sancto Spiritu..... Antonio Vivaldi

Intermission

2023-2024 Season Partners



Youth Choir Selections

Elementary Choir (December 3):

Koren Russ, Elementary Director (Central & West)

Amberlynn Lane, Elementary Director (North)

Hannah Delgado, Elementary Conductor (Central)

Mama Bake the Johnnycake, Christmas Comin'..... Blake Alphonso Higgs

Hannah Delgado, Elementary Conductor

Dodi Li..... Nira Chen

arr. Doreen Rao

El Deseembre Congelat..... Traditional

arr. Cristy Cary Miller

Soloist: Allan Mair, flute

Walking in the Air..... Howard Blake

arr. John Leavitt

With Koto instrumentalist Keiko Twiss

Middle & High School Choirs (December 9 & 10):

Aubrey Patterson, Artistic Director

Melinda Murdock, Middle School Conductor (Central)

Walking in the Air..... Howard Blake

arr. John Leavitt

With Koto instrumentalist Keiko Twiss

Bring A Torch Jeanette Isabella..... Traditional

arr. Russell Robinson

Melina Murdock, Middle School Conductor

Soloist trios: Penny Lockwood, Anya Rehani, Kate Shilling, and Lucia Coleman, Bennett Lembo,

Jyoti'smana Hisle

Measure Me Sky..... Elaine Hagenberg

Velvet Shoes..... Stacey Philipps

Soloists: Delaney Lallum, Fiona Vanderwal, Oscar Jones, Justin Gurkin

Oregon Repertory Singers

Stars..... Ēriks Ešenvalds

Poem by Sara Teasdale

Brightest and Best..... American Carol

arr. Shawn Kirchner

David Teves-Tan, violin

Lisa Riffel, conductor

Christ the Apple Tree..... British Carol

arr. Elizabeth Poston

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence..... Medieval Carol

arr. Naomi LaViolette

Silent Night..... Franz Gruber

arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw

Combined Choirs (12/09 & 12/10 only)

Betelehemu..... Nigerian Carol

arr. Wendell Whalum & Barrington Brooks

PROGRAM NOTES

Welcome to our 50th Anniversary edition of Glory of Christmas! Oregon Repertory Singers is not a religious organization, but we have kept the title of these concerts because so many of the best pieces of choral music were written for this season. And while we include music from a variety of traditions, my focus more and more has been on choosing the most beautiful music I can find, so that you can take an afternoon or evening to simply be immersed in beauty.



We are releasing our new album *50* at these concerts. ORS was very privileged to work with the multiple-Grammy-Award-winning team of producer Steve Barnett and engineer Preston Smith who flew to Portland for recording sessions with us this past January and then edited, mixed, and mastered the album at their studio in Minneapolis.

Our album *50*, has the same goal as these concerts: to present the most beautiful compilation of choral works recorded in ideal conditions. You will hear many of your favorite selections by Morten Lauridsen, Eric Whitacre, and Ēriks Ešēvalds that we have presented at Glory of Christmas in recent seasons, and of course Franz Biebl's famous *Ave Maria*.

And we have three other major anniversaries to celebrate! Our Youth Choir program is in their 30th Season this year, and we are so glad that singers of all ages will be joining us for these performances. We are also thrilled to have the Chamber Orchestra from Union High School in Camas, Washington join us for the third time! As we celebrate our 50th, their conductor Tim Siess (who is a singer and the bass section leader in ORS) is celebrating his 40th year as a music teacher. You would be hard pressed to find such a high quality orchestra at any high school in the United States, and if you enjoy hearing them tonight, you can hear them playing Ola Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass* with us on our new album.

And finally, our beloved accompanist Naomi LaViolette is celebrating her 20th Season (and definitely *not* final season) as our pianist and frequent guest composer. Our new album features several pieces of hers including *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* which you can hear live in these performances, and her first original composition *Winter Solstice* which we premiered last year. And we are so excited to present the premiere performances of Naomi's new version of her original song *Written for You* which she has expanded to include full orchestra.

Thank you for celebrating with us this year. We hope we can continue our mission of surrounding you with beauty, and that you can carry that with you as you gather with friends and family this holiday season.

Dr. Ethan Sperry | Artistic Director & Conductor

While this is far from my first Glory of Christmas performance, it is the first in which I get to conduct as Artistic Director of the ORS Youth Choir. It is also my second Christmas as a new mom. My partner and I reflected that we are truly seeing and hearing the world anew, and the joy of introducing our youth choirs to beautiful melodies and inspiring harmonies makes me feel like a kid every year of my teaching career. The joy and beauty of a familiar melody, set slightly differently, or a new



take on a beloved text brings a comforting ritual to our holiday season. The theme from the short film *The Snowman* is the selection that ties all of our many ensembles together. Amberlynn Lane's connection with Keiko Twiss allows us to explore the sounds of the Koto, a traditional Japanese zither as our accompaniment. It lends an ethereal, almost haunting take on the holiday, with poetic lines like "we're floating in the midnight blue."

Our first weekend features our Elementary program and three of our excellent instructors I am lucky to work with: Amberlynn Lane, Koren Russ, and Hannah Delgado. *Mama Bake the Johnny Cake* is a well known Christmas song in the Bahamas. Johnny Cakes are similar to donuts and a delightful treat—just like our youngest singers' rendition of the song. *Dodi Li* is a wonderful opportunity to explore ancient poems in collaboration with our singers. Each location (West, Central, and North) is featured in a verse of poetry with movements they created based on their interpretations. Though the specific phrases may be difficult to understand, love (the theme of the poems) is something we can all connect with.

In our second weekend of performances, our new middle school directors Melinda Murdock (Central) and Andrew Hancock (North) combine their middle school choirs for the traditional French carol, *Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella*. Our high school singers show their worth is beyond measure as they portray poetry by Leonora Speyer, "Sky, be my depth, Wind, be my width and my height, World, my heart's span; Loveliness, wings for my flight." Composer Elaine Hagenberg challenges us to think beyond ourselves with an always reaching, always striving choral setting of the text. This piece showcases our incredible collaborative pianist, Cindy Mair! She truly collaborates with every ensemble she partners with, and I'm so pleased and honored to work with her every week.

Our high school and middle school choirs close with a setting from our composer-in-residence, Stacey Philipps. Poet Elinor Wylie "creates a true winter wonderland in describing the magical sights, soft sounds, and silence of a snowy day." ORS's own Philipps layers her depth of harmony like so many layers of fallen snow. As our audience becomes familiar with the plaintive melody, please join us on the theme as it repeats: "Let us walk in the white snow in a soundless space; with footsteps quiet and slow, at a tranquil pace under veils of white lace."

Aubrey Patterson | ORS Youth Choir Artistic Director

THANK YOU

The concerts in the 2023-2024 season are generously supported by:

Leadership Circle

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David Muller
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Susan Hall
Brigid Flanigan
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Richard Rose
Ben Hickman & Stacey Philipps
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Lauren & Colin Storz
Sherril B. Gelmon
Patricia & Dean Werth
Kirk Masterson & Meghan Moran

Those listed above gave \$2,500 or more during the 2022-2023 season (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023).

Professional Contributions

Ed Reeves & Melissa Healy, Stoel Rives LLP
Amer Isse, Sound Technician
David Peterson, Production Manager
Josh Orchard (Media Campus), Videographer
Richard Poppino, Photography
Lindsey Hiefield, Graphic Designer
Bonnie Maze, Print and Promotional Imaging
Elizabeth Buskirk, Professional Bookkeeping

50th Anniversary Committee

April Vanderwal, Chair
Suzanne Barthelmess
Sherril Gelmon
Joel Godbey
Jen Gosnell

Bruce Gulliver
Jeri Haskins
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John Herr
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David Frackelton	Jean Masonek	Roy Wilkinson
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Linda & Robert Galante	Meghan Moran	CP Wise
Joyce Gardner &	Celia McDougal &	Carol Witherell
Jim Steinberger	Joshua Kauffman	

Glory of Christmas Volunteers

Kathleen Barnebey	Ann Kirby	Barb Ruben
Sheri Barrows	Peter Landon	Robyn Smith
Cliff Fairley	LouAnn Lindberg	Mary Swanson
Mary Anne Fairley	Pat O'Connor	Becky Warren
Sherril Gelmon	Elena Peterson	Roger Warren
Jeff Hammarlund	Mark Peterson	Kathy Wolff
Ann Helm	Theresa Raichel	
Marla Kazell	Jenia Rimov	

TEXT

Written for You

Text and Music by Naomi LaViolette

What can be written for you?
There's too much to say
Strength eternal, a peace I can't explain

So many ways you appear
In my hope, in my fear
In sacred prayers repeated for thousands of years

You are firelight, firelight in my soul
Firelight, firelight, and always love

I sit alone by the sea
And I feel you where I breathe
With nothing more I need to be
Beautiful mystery

Stars

Eriks Ešenvalds
Poem by Sara Teasdale

Alone in the night
On a dark hill
With pines around me
Spicy and still

And a heaven full of stars
Over my head
White and topaz
And misty red;

Myriads with beating
Hearts of fire
The aeons
Cannot vex or tire;

Up the dome of heaven
Like a great hill
I watch them marching
Stately and still

And I know that I
Am honored to be
Witness
Of so much majesty

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

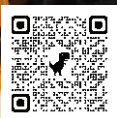
King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

OREGON ARTSWATCH

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ADVENT

2023

Holiday Pops Concert

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 7 and 9 PM

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
of Portland

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.

We will periodically update and review our COVID-19 policy as the situation evolves.

- ORS will adhere to, at minimum, current Federal, Oregon Health Authority, and Multnomah and Washington 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.

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

Sopranos

Michelle Averill
Andrea Bachhuber
Laurel Barnum
Suzanne Barthelmess
Debbie Benke
Aliyih Bristol
Tina Bull
Melissa Canaday
Rachel Consenz
Jeannine Dahl Fogel
Hannah Delgado
Celine Goodbody *
Tiffany Haole-Valenzuela
Mollie Horne
Sarah Hotz
Samantha Hughes
Andrea Kelly
Amelia Lamb
Kate Ledington
Celia McDougal
Danielle McFadden
Megan McNeal
Eva Patil
JaneAnne Peterson
Melissa Reed
Darcy Schray
Lauren Storz
Julie Quastler
April Vanderwal
Beth Woods *

Altos

Shayla Bailey
Ana Bane
Mary Bradbury
Amy Brittan
Cheryl Canning
Paula Creamer
Alison Ellsworth
Linda Galante
Jen Gosnell
Abigail Graves
Jeri Haskins
Lauren Haskins Eshuis
Rachel Hermansen
Fredericka Hoeveler
Darilyn Jablonski
Carla Kelley
Katherine Killops
Jill Maughan
Nora McLaughlin
Joanna Meline
Hannah Moorman
Rebecca Parsons
Stacey Philipps
Lisa Riffel
Ava Rose
Lydia Ross
Hannah Schacht
Jan Schaeffer
Elise Schaff Laubach
Bethany Schweitzer-Goshorn
Kinnari Shah
Katey Simmons
Hannah Verbruggen
Liz Winship *

Tenors

Christopher Bailey
Paige Baker *
David Frackelton
Peter Gunn
Peter Haub
Gareth Hauser
Kaya Hellman
Jeff Jones
Nathan Klammer
Tom LaBarge
Kirk Masterson
Mark Mercier
Paul Neese
David Peterson
Doug Rank
Vernon Reitz
Patrick Rowley
Mark Solon
Tom Swafford
Ian Timmons *
Jamie Troy
Joshua Weir
Ryan Wickman
Mark Woodward

Bass

Dennis Baumgardner *
Curtis Brooks
Charles Coughlin
John Dabritz
Cliff Davidson
Stuart Farmer
Richard Frye
John Herr
John Gladen
Joel Godbey
Bruce Gulliver
Rick Jones
Joshua Kauffman
Andrew Kent
Jacob Lundgren
Dylan Moe
David Muller
Richard Murphy
Steve Oliver
Luis Ortiz-Rodriguez
Paul Plett
Thomas Proctor
Greg Prosser *
Ken Ray
Ed Reeves *
Miles Rigby
Gary Ritter
Mark Rozanski
VJ Sathyaraj
Evan Shenk
Tim Siess
Rich Vanderwal
Cole Weber
Roy Wilkinson

*Not singing this concert

GUEST ARTISTS

Tim Siess | Director, Union High School Orchestra

This is my 12th year as the orchestra director at Union HS, where I also team-teach three bands and direct Jazz 2. Prior teaching positions include South Salem HS, Beaverton HS, Mountain View HS, and Cascade MS—which makes this my 40th year in education. Prior to joining ORS in 2015, I played trombone in and directed the Southwest Washington Wind Symphony.



Union High School Chamber Orchestra

The UHS Chamber Orchestra is honored to be a part of the ORS 50th celebration—this is the group's third appearance in an ORS "Glory" concert! In 2022 the group performed at the Washington Music Educators All-State Conference, and last year was selected to perform at the Yamaha "Music for All" National Orchestra Festival in Indianapolis. Union High School is one of four comprehensive high schools in the Evergreen School District (Vancouver, WA). Instrumental music offerings at UHS include two orchestras, three concert bands, two jazz ensembles, and percussion class.

Violin I

David Teves-Tan
Suzanne Xu
Eric Lee
Ding Wen
Kyle Obras
Sierra Chow
Eli Long
Avery Wong

Violin 2

Leo Flores
Darien Bills
Jonathan
Quintinita
I-An Lu
Tatum Tanchuck
Claire Huang
Rohan Thawani
Will Buckingham
Bailee Allen
Sammy Reid
Brooklyn
Pandoliano

Viola

Alvin Sung
Ocean Fulepp
Katrina Ramm
Hayden Whitney
William Lu
Alice Schaak
Narina Tanous
Brynna Patton
Sarah Alberson

Cello

Loni Yin
Pearl Liao
Emanuel Lucero
Camryn Wong
Tony Quach
Laurieann Lacher
Keira
Yuthasastracosol
Ethan Becker

Bass

Raiden Jones
Reese Danley
Mars Calizon
Abhay Kadambi

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 is in her third year serving as the assistant conductor of the Oregon Repertory Singers, and her eleventh year singing with the choir. She is a dedicated music educator and passionate choral conductor. Strong musicianship skills, musicality, and a community focus have enabled her to lead efficient rehearsals and give emotive performances with her choirs. Outside of her work with ORS, Lisa directs the choirs at Lincoln High School. Under her leadership the choir program has doubled in size, toured nationally and internationally, and consistently receives high scores at local festivals and competitions. Originally from the Los Angeles area, Lisa moved to Portland to study choral conducting with Dr. Ethan Sperry at Portland State University. She graduated with a Masters of Music in Choral Conducting in 2016. Artistic director Ethan Sperry has said that “sight singing is her superpower”. Lisa resides with her husband, Andy, and daughter, Hazel, in Northeast Portland. She is happy to have found a home in the beautiful Pacific Northwest and enjoys exploring the many parks and hiking trails in the area.



Naomi LaViolette | Accompanist

Naomi LaViolette is a composer, performer, singer-songwriter, and versatile pianist based in Portland, Oregon. She has a master's degree in classical piano performance, but she has also immersed herself in the study of jazz standards, folk songs, soul, pop, and gospel. Naomi has released multiple singles and four records, most recently *Live at The Old Church with Members of the Oregon Symphony*, released February 2019. Her recordings have received great reviews and critical acclaim and she has performed at esteemed venues and festivals including the Carnegie Hall Weill Recital Hall, Portland Jazz Festival, Jimmy Mak's, the Doug Fir Lounge, the Aladdin Theater and All Classical Portland. Her work with Steven Goodwin and the *Saving His Music* project has received prominent coverage in national and local news, including CBS Sunday Morning. Their record, entitled *The Nature Of Love*, spent three weeks on the Billboard New Age chart in January 2018.



Since 2004, the Oregon Repertory Singers have made her an essential part of their artistic staff as their pianist. Naomi is a published choral composer with Santa Barbara Publishing. The Oregon Symphony collaborates with Naomi as a songwriter and arranger for the Lullaby Project. Naomi frequently sings national anthems for conventions and sporting events, and she is a pianist for Michael Allen Harrison's *Ten Grands* concert and *She's Speaking*, a collective that creates forums/spaces for women's voices and women's stories to be heard.

ORS YOUTH CHOIR

The ORS Youth Choir serves over 140 young singers in three locations (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. Learn more about our program at ORSingers.org/youth-choir.

Elementary Choir

Neomi Albro
Ellie Alders
Nora Allison
Brooklinn Kaur Bains
Ruby Barrett
August Beaver
Leo Beaver
Benjamin Boone
RaeLynn Bridger
Claire Bryan
Evan Bryan
Malachi Chilcott
Lila Clune
Emilia Cobb
Kalena Deleon Guerrero
Lilyana Deleon Guerrero
Rosalind Donnelly
Annabelle Du Plessis
Emma Edgcombe
Donovan Elkorek
Graham Ereth
Lily Essley
Noori Eveland
Myla Falk
Sophia Garcia
Coralena Gerke
Alice Gerstner
Chase Goldwyn

Sylvia Gray
Venice Harris
Preston Hawley
Jeremiah Hawley
Kaia Herb
Johnny Hernandez
Charlotte Hill
Mykayla Juhi Hisle
Mykah Janika Hisle
Samaeya Huddlestun
Karina Inoue-Evans
Ruby Irvine
Asia Jackson
Carissa Keane
Ella Keebler
Rennissa King
Corabelle Kramer
Leonardo Lane
Teagan Loustalot
Hazel Mach
Lidia Manek
Coraline Mathisen
Olivia Matson
Maya Maurice
Aria Mae Maxie
CeCe McCullar
Luisa Mears
Azalia Medhanie

Callie Mera
Rorik Mera
Fiona O'Connor
Cecilia OLeary
Evan Ommen
Aicha Ouadiro
Lucien Perkins
Graham Rikli
Elise Rubin
Juniper Scheetz
Elena Schmoldt
Morgan See
Malcolm Snodderly
Cecily Stone Aeto
Isaac Tarne
Theron Thompson
Averie Tripp
Neve Tsunehiro
Aria Tumanello
Arwen Vanderfield
Andrea Velasquez
Illiana Velasquez
June Wilkins
Sylvia Wood
Tallulah Woodward
Hando Xia
Anthony Zallen



Middle School Choir

Ericka Arellano
Dorian Baxter
Josie Bolton
Lucia Coleman
Noam Elliott
Claire Ferguson
Olivia Flowers
Emma Garcia
Johanna Greiner
Enzo Guili
Marley Hartman
Mykael Jyoti'smana Hisle
Desi Holmes
Cora Holtman

F. Hutcheson
Ione Jones
Rowynn Junkert
Elliot Keavney
Bennett Lembo
Takeo Linder
Penny Lockwood
Lily Manek
Matilda Nicholson
Sylvia Nicholson
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Tristan Parker
Audrey Parrott
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Sophia U'Ren
Indiah VanDam
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Savanna Walker
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Audrey Willcox

High School Choir

Nathaniel Bomar
Emma Callahan
Finola Cleveland
Caitlin Duncan
Kylie Edwards
Jocelyn Emery
Emma Goldberg
Justin Gurkin
Marvin Haines

Oscar Jones
Ku'uipo Kaplan
Delaney Lallum
Luci LaViolette
Jordan McGrath
Maya Miller
Audrey Peters
Robbie Ramsdell
Wish Rank

Jack Ryan
Alex Tharp
Gabi Trimble
Fiona Vanderwal
Quinn Vanderwal
Alex Woods

YOUTH CHOIR ARTISTIC STAFF

Aubrey Patterson | Artistic Director and High School Conductor

Aubrey Patterson (she/her) taught for twelve years as a director of choirs in Oregon public high schools, currently conducts the auditioned treble ensemble at Lewis and Clark, is a University Supervisor for choral teacher candidates for Portland State University, 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.

Koren Russ | Elementary Director (Central & West)

Koren Russ graduated from Oregon State University in 1998. She is a music educator in the Beaverton School District and has 25 years of experience working with students from kindergarten through eighth grade. With her vibrant personality and humor, Koren connects to students using her knowledge of choral techniques and musicianship to educate each student based on their current skills. Her passion is creating joyful musical experiences with all singers.



Amberlynn Lane | Elementary Director (North)

Amberlynn Lane (she/her/they) has been teaching elementary general and choral music for twelve years. She taught for two years in Oregon after receiving a Masters of Arts in Teaching at Oregon State University and has since been teaching in the Evergreen School District in Vancouver, Washington. A National Board-Certified Teacher in Early Childhood Music, Lane has presented sessions at Washington Music Educators Association and the national Modern Band Summit hosted by MusicWill. She currently serves as the Northwest Modern Band Association vice-president and previously served as an elementary representative and equity committee member for the Washington Music Educators Association. Amberlynn holds certifications in World Music Pedagogy and Modern Band levels IO1 and IO2. Additionally, she studied composition with Robert Dickow, Dan Buckvich, and Charles Argersinger, at Washington State and the University of Idaho.



Amberlynn vividly remembers begging her parents to sign her up for choir when she was in elementary school and is thrilled to be bringing that opportunity to young singers in Southwest Washington. She is quite sure that “musicking” with children is the most fun, and loves to teach literacy and musicianship in creative, student-centered ways.

Melinda Murdock | Middle School Conductor (Central)

Melinda Murdock is in her 23rd year teaching choral studies at Jackson Middle School in Portland, Oregon. She has earned degrees from Nova Southeastern University (M.A.) and Idaho State University (B.A.). While attending ISU, she studied choral conducting with Dr. Scott Anderson and participated in numerous international choral tours, including England, Central Europe, Italy, Greece, and Brazil. She also worked with the late Weston Noble, in Idaho and Brazil, as a model for correct choral technique.



Except for the two pandemic years, her auditioned Ensemble Choir has participated the past 22 years in Worldstrides Heritage Festivals, including nine times in their Festival of Gold in New York City, Washington D.C., and Nashville. Her Concert Choir performed at the Oregon All-State convention in 2020, and they consistently rank in the top five at the Best in the Northwest Choral Festival.

In demand as a clinician and adjudicator, Melinda was also nominated for the prestigious Oregon Music Educator of the Year award (2006) and was named Teacher of the Year by the Portland Parent Teacher Association (2007). Melinda is a trained classical singer and maintains a vocal studio, with her students often ranking in the top ten at the state level. She strives to instill in her students a life-long love of music.

Hannah Delgado | Elementary Conductor

Hannah Delgado is a current third-year elementary music teacher in the Tigard Tualatin School District. She graduated from Portland State University in 2020 with her Bachelors in Music Education, and a Bachelors in Ethnomusicology. She completed her Masters work in the Portland State GTEP program in 2021. During her time at PSU, she was a member of the Chamber Choir for two years and took active roles in the community acting as President for both the Collegiate National Association for Music Educators Portland State chapter, and the PSU Student Music Council. This past year, Hannah was an intern for the ORS Youth Choir under the mentorship of Aubrey Patterson. Hannah loves her job more than anything, and is consistently looking for ways to grow as a young teacher. When she is not teaching or making music, she can be found with a book, longing for Fall, and playing with her cats Maestro and Milly.



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. An Oregon native, Cindy received her BA in Music Education from Oregon State University and later her Masters in Administrative Leadership from Concordia University. Her favorite assignment has always been that of a collaborative pianist. She has accompanied many ensembles and soloists both at the local and state level. Before joining the ORS Youth Choir, Cindy accompanied the Portland Symphonic Girlchoir for the past 6 seasons. She also enjoys playing for the Milwaukie Lutheran Church Choir and the Tilikum Choir Community under the direction of John Baker. Cindy feels she has come 'full circle' in her musical adventure as she was a proud alto in the adult ORS choir in the mid-1980s! When not collaborating with ORS Youth, you will find her performing with her husband Allan, a professional musician.



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YOUTH CHOIR

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT —



Steve Barnett, Ethan Sperry, Preston Smith, & Paige Baker at the January 2023 Recording Session at The Reser.

Paige Baker

I joined the Oregon Repertory Singers fresh out of college. I had received a teaching fellowship from University of Portland and was working at Mt. Hood Community College, but wanted to find a group to sing in. My experience at Central Washington University set expectations high, but a friend told me about ORS and how great they were. I auditioned for Gil Seeley in 1978. It was exactly what I needed; the group was really, really good.

Singing in ORS has been the only constant in my life, aside from my family of course. It didn't matter what was going on, Tuesday was rehearsal night. No matter how tired I was, I would drag myself to rehearsal because I knew when I arrived the music would rejuvenate me. It's been one of the great joys of my life to rehearse and perform with such a dedicated bunch of people. I've had the good fortune to sing for two absolutely wonderful music directors who introduced all of us to as many different kinds of music as you could think of.

When Covid hit in 2020 I had to step away from singing to take care of my family, but I still wanted to contribute. After I received an inheritance, I decided to gift ORS the funds necessary to record their next album, which is now complete and titled *50*. When I told Ethan I wanted to fund the recording session, he was in shock! His mouth agape, you could hear a pin drop. I knew we had to work with Steve Barnett and Preston Smith again—who recorded the last album *Shadows on the Stars*—to craft this special commemoration of the 50th season. Steve and Preston are the best recording engineers that you can find. They have some of the best sets of ears I've ever witnessed in my life. Ethan agreed and we set out to make it happen. Five days of recording in January and months of editing, production, and planning have led to this moment; *50* is now available for purchase!

The ORS leadership are phenomenal at what they do. Ethan and Lauren worked so hard to keep the group going through everything recently; it just meant the world to me and I

wanted to give back. I wanted ORS to get a present for their resilience! It was such a pleasure to give this gift. I hope people get a lot out of it. In my opinion, ORS is the *best* non-professional singing group in the United States and as good or better than a lot of the professional groups. It's a phenomenal group of talented and dedicated people. I want everyone to be able to hear it. Listening to Oregon Repertory Singers is a "wow" experience.



NEW ALBUM!

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50 is also available from all major platforms including Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon Music.

SUPPORT YOUR SINGERS

Celebrate Oregon Repertory Singers in its double milestone anniversary season with a tax-deductible gift before December 31.

Your generous contribution will help Oregon Repertory Singers by **attracting world-class musicians**, directors, and composers, **nurturing the next generation** through scholarships and accessible educational programs, and **supporting sustainability** while continuing to innovate.

You can mark your excitement for this milestone anniversary season in a number of ways:

- Join our treasured troupe of GEMS (Give Every Month Supporters) by committing to a recurring gift of \$50 per month for the 50th anniversary or \$30 per month for the 30th anniversary...*or join at any amount that works for you!* If you're already giving monthly through our GEM program, thank you.
- Offer a one-time, general operating gift in celebration of this double milestone season.
- Direct your dollars to the Kris Van Auken Youth Choir Tuition Scholarship Fund or the Youth Choir Tour Scholarship Fund. *(These two Funds are our greatest current need!)*

Your year-end contribution is a testament to your belief in Oregon Repertory Singers, your support of the arts, and your invaluable investment in the cultural vibrancy of our community. Thank you for celebrating with us!

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Finding Light

Special Guest Matthew Lyon Hazzard

Saturday, April 27, 2024 | 4 PM

Sunday, April 28, 2024 | 4 PM

Patricia Reser Center for the Arts

12625 SW Crescent St., Beaverton

Oregon Repertory Singers and Youth Choir join Portland Youth Philharmonic for a profound reflection on life, meaning, and the search for light in the darkest of times with two stunning works for choir and orchestra.

Oregon Repertory Singers concludes their 50th season with *Finding Light*, a new work for choir and orchestra by Filipino-American composer Matthew Lyon Hazzard. ORS commissioned Hazzard to write a complement to *Lux Aeterna*, commonly considered the most beautiful twentieth-century work for choir and orchestra, composed by National Medal of Arts winner and beloved Oregonian composer Morten Lauridsen. While Lauridsen's oratorio approaches the theme of light from a religious perspective, Hazzard's new work is the ideal companion piece to conclude the concert, with poems by young Chinese-American (and Portlandian!) poet Sophia Mautz about finding light in the darkest of times. Camerata from Portland Youth Philharmonic—celebrating their 100th Anniversary—is collaborating on this performance, along with members of ORS Youth Choir—celebrating 30 years this season! It's a season of milestones! Join us for this celebration of light, life, and longevity!



ORS Youth Choir Spring Concert

Special Performance by Oregon Repertory Singers

Saturday, May 18, 2024 | 4 PM

First United Methodist Church

1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland

Oregon Repertory Singers Youth Choir closes its 30th season with two world premieres! Youth Choir will debut a new combined work for youth and adult choirs from pianist and composer Naomi LaViolette and showcase excerpts from a book of rounds composed specifically for ORS Youth Choir from Composer-in-Residence Stacey Philipps.

Learn More About ORS Youth Choir: Details and tuition available at [ORSingers.org/youth-choir](https://orsingers.org/youth-choir). **FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE**



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