The UW’s top auditioned choirs present their fall quarter concert. The University Chorale (Giselle Wyers, director) presents “Songs from a Frozen Sky,” featuring folk music from Northern Lands, including music by Edward Elgar, Robert Pearsall, Hugo Wolf, and others. The Chamber Singers (Geoffrey Boers, director) performs selections from a recent collaboration with Pilobus Dance Company and provides a live soundtrack to three short films.

PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY CHORALE
GISELLE WYERS, DIRECTOR

Songs from a Frozen Sky: Folk Music of England, Ireland, Finland, Germany and Iceland

The Dance: Edward Elgar
Sing we and Chant it: Robert Pearsall
O Mistress Mine: Herbert Murrill
Im Stillen Friedhof: Hugo Wolf
I’ll Give My Love an Apple: arr. Jenny Trites

The Wind the Shakes the Barley: Joyce, arr. Dan Davison
Heyr Himna Smiour: Þorkell Sigurbjörnsson
Pakkanen: Soila Sariola

CHAMBER SINGERS
The Chamber Singers perform selections from a recent collaboration with Pilobolus Dance Company and provide live music as a sound track for three short films.

PROGRAM

Merrill Garbus: *Quizassa* (commissioned by vocal octet *Roomful of Teeth*)
Carolyn Shaw: *Partita* (commissioned by vocal octet *Roomful of Teeth*)
Ola Gjeilo: *Prelude*
Jake Runestad: *Nyon Nyon*
Vivaldi: *Dixit Dominus*
Claudio Monteverdi, Morten Lauridsen: Settings of the madrigal text *Se Per Havervi Oime*

DIRECTOR BIOS

**GEOFFREY BOERS**

Geoffrey Boers is Director of Choral Activities at the University of Washington in Seattle, a program widely recognized as forward thinking, unique, and of great distinction. Under his direction, the graduate choral program has developed a singular mission: to nurture the whole student as conductor-teacher-servant-leader-scholar. This vision has led the program to become one of the most vibrant and innovative in the country, attracting students from around the world interested in exploring the future of our art. Through his teaching he is exploring the evolution of conducting gesture and rehearsal pedagogy and their connection with the emerging neuroscience of mirror neurons, empathy, perception, learning, and personal transformation. His exploration has led to new thoughts about conducting and teaching with regard to breath, movement, artistry, personal awareness, and cultural development. Recently, his work has led to the mentoring of local choral cohorts of teachers and conductors who are interested in building professional communities of ongoing mentorship and musical development. He has developed such mentorship programs across the United States and Canada. In addition to these thoughts about mentorship he is actively working with other leaders in ACDA and NAfME to develop a more unified and useful system for development of musicianship, assessment, adjudication, and repertoire grading.

Geoffrey maintains an active conducting, teaching, workshop and clinic schedule; his recent engagements have included conducting concerts in Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, Meyerson Concert Hall in Dallas, New York's Alice Tully and Avery Fischer Hall at Lincoln Center, the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, and Benaroya Hall in Seattle. In addition he has served as artist-in-residence in Toronto, Ontario, Mainz, Germany, as well as Seoul, Korea with the world-renown choir the *Incheon City Chorale*.

In addition to his position at the UW, Boers sings professionally and is the conductor of the Tacoma Symphony Chorus where he conducts both the choir and symphony players in a four-concert season.

Since his tenure at the University of Washington, the choral program has become a leader in promoting the performance, study and exchange of Baltic music in the United States. The choir has toured to the Baltic countries in 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2013. Geoffrey Boers was awarded a prestigious Royalty Research Grant in 2004 to create a Baltic Choral Library in collaboration with the UW Library as well as State and academic libraries in the Baltic. This collection of scores, manuscripts, vocal music, and writings is the first of its kind in the United States. This collection has promoted yearly exchanges with choirs and conductors from the Baltic area who travel each year to Seattle. Further, it has led to numerous UW choral students winning awards and scholarships to travel, study, and work in the Baltic countries.

**GISELLE WYERS**
Giselle Wyers is the Donald E. Petersen Endowed Professor of Choral Music at the University of Washington, where she conducts the award-winning University Chorale and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in choral conducting and music education. University Chorale's latest CD, Resonant Streams (on the MSR Music Recordings label) was reviewed by Gramophone magazine last spring. Her semi-professional chorus, Solaris Vocal Ensemble, specializes in the performance of contemporary American choral literature. Their premiere album Floodsongs won the The American Prize Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music, in the professional ensemble division for 2017-18.

As a guest conductor, Wyers has led high school honor choirs and all-state choruses in New York (Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center), Georgia, Missouri, Louisiana, Connecticut, Nebraska, Texas, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, and Vancouver, Canada. She has conducted semi-professional ensembles across the United States and in Germany, the Netherlands, Estonia, and Sweden. She will direct All-State choirs in Nevada, Wisconsin and Kansas in 2020.

Wyers is a leading national figure in the application of Laban movement theory for conductors. She has served as guest lecturer in conducting at Sweden's Örebro Universitet, Eastman School of Music, Ithaca College, Westminster Choir College, University of Iowa, Hobart and William Smith Colleges and Portland State University.

Wyers' choral works are published by Santa Barbara Music Publishing Company as part of the "Giselle Wyers Choral Series," and have been performed across the United States, Canada, Australia, Cuba, and numerous European cities. Her latest premiere was a 30 minute choral cycle entitled And All Shall Be Well, commissioned by the Vashon Island Chorale. In 2020, four new choral works will premiere across the United States. She is also committed to mentoring scholar-writers in the field, and serves on the editorial board of ACDAs Choral Journal.

People Involved:  Geoffrey Boers  Giselle Wyers
Event Type:  Performances  Student Activities and Performances
Related Areas of Study:  Choral Activities  Choral Conducting  Conducting  Vocal Performance
Related Ensembles:  Chamber Singers  University Chorale

The University of Washington acknowledges the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip and Muckleshoot nations.

School of Music · University of Washington · Music Building, Box 353450 · Seattle, WA 98195
Telephone: (206) 543-1201 · Email: musinfo@uw.edu

Copyright © 2013-2020 University of Washington · Privacy · Terms · Site Map · Contact Us

Source URL: https://music.washington.edu/events/2019-11-21/chamber-singers-and-university-chorale