

**CCM**

**CHORAL SERIES**

**PRESENTS**

**ĒRIKS EŠENVALDS AND  
THE MUSIC OF LATVIA  
CCM CHAMBER CHOIR**

Dr. Joe Miller, conductor

Rachel Feldman, assistant conductor

Sergey Tkachenko, assistant conductor

Joel Jamison, piano

**Saturday, April 26, 2025  
Knox Presbyterian Church  
7:30 p.m.**

# PROGRAM

Dziedot dzimu, dziedot augu

arr. Alfrēds Kalniņš  
(1879-1951)

Legend of the Walled-in Woman

Ēriks Ešenvalds  
(b. 1977)

Helele Fan, Christin Sears, Stella Fitzgerald, Levi Capesius, Valerie Dreith, Trevor Kroeger, and Landon Scriber, soloists

Stars

Ešenvalds

Missa Rigensis

Uģis Prauliņš  
(b. 1957)

*Gloria*

Jennifer Liu, Ariana Troxell-Layton, Rachel Feldman, Elaina Hill,  
Ryan Block, Clark Xiong, small group

Shir Ordo, Kayla Sconiers, Cameron Howard, soloists

*Agnus Dei*

The Fruit of Silence

Pēteris Vasks  
(b. 1946)

The First Tears

Ešenvalds

Claire Gundersen, Ellie Naehring, Audrey Weber, Mark Behrendt,  
Valerie Dreith, Clark Xiong, soloists

Rotoļa

Juris Karlsons  
(1948-2019)

Long Road

Ešenvalds

# ROSTER

## CCM CHAMBER CHOIR

### **Soprano**

Elise Byard  
Helele Fan  
Claire Gundersen  
Jennifer Liu  
Ellie Naehring  
Mary Okotie  
Christin Sears  
Ariana Troxwell-Layton  
Audrey Weber

### **Alto**

Rachel Feldman  
Stella Fitzgerald  
Elaina Hill  
Shir Ordo  
Samantha Pape  
Kayla Sconiers  
Sydney Sorbet  
Nikki Tayidi

### **Tenor**

Mark Behrendt  
Ryan Block  
Levi Capesius  
Valerie Dreith  
Cameron Howard  
Eric Reidel  
Clark Xiong

### **Bass**

Harrison Hancock  
Joel Jamison  
Trevor Kroeger  
Ethan Neal  
Landon Scriber  
Michael Temesi  
Sergey Tkachenko

# BIOGRAPHY



Recognized as a visionary conductor and creative artist, **Joe Miller** maintains an active performance schedule. Miller currently serves as Professor of Conducting and Director of Choral Studies at the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). In addition to his work at CCM, Miller is artistic director of choral activities for the renowned Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina and since 2016 he has served as conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra Symphonic Choir.

Featured works of Miller's 2024-25 season CCM include touring with the CCM Chamber Choir with Bach's Singet dem Herrn, Mahler Symphony Nr. 2, Resurrection (Mark Gibson), Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem (Brett Scott), and a residency with renowned Latvian composer Eriks Esenvalds. Works with the Philadelphia Orchestra include Mahler, Symphony Nr. 3 (Yannick Nézet-Séguin), and Verdi Requiem (Ricardo Muti), and Handel, Messiah (Yannick Nézet-Séguin). Miller will close the 2024-25 season with new works and projects for the Spoleto Festival USA.

Miller's ensembles have performed throughout the world giving concert tours in Italy, Germany, Austria, France, England, China, and Spain, participating in the World Symposium on Choral Music in Barcelona. His choirs have toured extensively throughout the United States performing for the American Choral Directors Association National and Regional Conferences, and including groundbreaking performances of Julia Wolfe's Pulitzer Prize winning Anthracite Fields at the historic Roebling WireWorks as part of Westminster's Transforming Space project.

# BIOGRAPHY



**Ēriks Ešenvalds** is one of the most sought-after composers working today. Performances of his music are heard on every continent and his works are widely recorded. Ēriks is a popular public speaker, which he often combines with leading masterclasses and conducting.

Born in Priekule, Latvia in 1977, Ēriks Ešenvalds studied at the Latvian Academy of Music and was a member of the Latvian State Choir. He held the position of Fellow Commoner in Creative Arts at Trinity College, University of Cambridge. At present, Ēriks heads the Department of Composition at the Latvian Academy of Music, where he has been teaching for over twenty years. He was decorated by his home country Latvia for services to music. Ēriks lives near Riga and is married with four children.

His music has been performed in venues around the world, including Carnegie Hall in New York, Boston Symphony Hall, Walt Disney Concert in Los Angeles, the Royal Albert Hall, Barbican, and Wigmore Hall in London, Birmingham Symphony Hall, Berliner Philharmonie, the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Wiener Konzerthaus, Stadtcasino Basel, Cité de la musique-Philharmonie de Paris, The Concertgebouw and Muziekgebouw in Amsterdam, Tokyo Opera City, Shenzhen Concert Hall, Victoria Concert Hall in Singapore, and Sydney Opera House.

# BIOGRAPHY

Large-scale premieres include *Lakes Awake at Dawn* for the Boston Symphony Orchestra and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, *The Pleiades* for the Grant Park Music Festival Chicago, *A Shadow* for the BBC Proms, *Dreams Under Your Feet* for the Gewandhaus Leipzig, and *Whispers on the Prairie Wind* for the Utah Symphony and Utah Chamber Artists. *Passion and Resurrection* was premiered by the Latvian State Choir and Liepaja Symphony Orchestra and has been performed by Polyphony and Britten Sinfonia and the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs and Sydney Symphony Orchestra. His second Easter oratorio, *St Luke Passion* was premiered by Latvian Radio Choir and Sinfonietta Riga. *Voice of the Ocean*, written for leading organist Iveta Apkalna, has been performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Kremerata Baltica, and Latvian National Symphony Orchestra. *Visions of Arctic: Night* was premiered by Liepaja Symphony Orchestra. *Nordic Light*, his multimedia symphony on the folklore and mythology of the northern lights, has been performed in the US, Canada, Germany, Sweden, and Switzerland. His full-scale opera *The Immured* was premiered at the Latvian National Opera and Ballet.

His music appears on recordings from Trinity College Choir Cambridge, Polyphony with Britten Sinfonia, Latvian Radio Choir with Sinfonietta Riga, Latvian State Choir, Portland State Chamber Choir, PLU Choir of the West, VOCES8, ORA Singers, The Crossing, Vasari Singers, Merton College Choir Oxford, Anna Lapwood with Pembroke College Chapel Choir Cambridge, UCD Choral Scholars, Iveta Apkalna with the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, Liepaja Symphony Orchestra, youth choir Kamēr..., and the national youth choirs of Great Britain, Scotland, and the Netherlands, amongst others.

Podium Music is managing Ēriks Ešenvalds' commissions and workshop schedule. Ēriks Ešenvalds is exclusively published by Musica Baltica.

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