

# United in Song

*European Premiere of Commissioned Piece by Elaine Hagenberg*

**Tallinn, Estonia :: June 26 - July 1, 2021**



## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dr. Ryan Beeken  
Director of Choral Activities  
Wichita State University



## COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

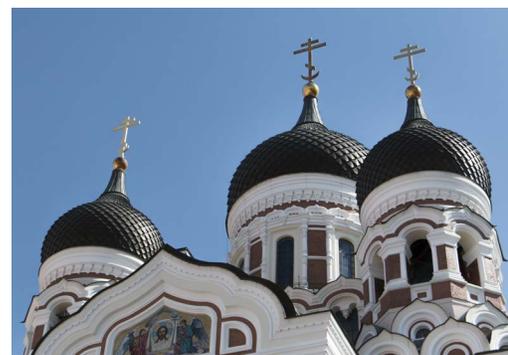
Ms. Elaine Hagenberg  
Composer & Clinician





## THE ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

United in Song is a blending of music from the United States and the Baltic countries. **Multi-generational** mixed choirs will have the opportunity to perform the **European premiere of a commissioned piece by Elaine Hagenberg** under the baton of **Ryan Beeken**. The Gala Concert will also include pieces by famed Baltic composers **Eriks Esenvalds and Peteris Vasks**. Artistic Director Ryan Beeken and Composer-in-Residence Elaine Hagenberg are developing a program that will unite singers and audience, creating an immersive experience for all participants. Additionally, fully balanced choirs have the opportunity for a spotlight performance during the gala concert in Tallinn, Estonia's beautiful and historic capital city.



## THE SINGING REVOLUTION & ESTONIA

In the Baltics singing is cultural and historical. Choral music was vital in establishing a sense of national identity during the many years of occupation. During the tragic times of Soviet rule their culture, heritage and even battle for independence were expressed through choral singing. The history of the Baltic Nation of Estonia is a story set to song. When independence was finally achieved in 1991 mass singing festivals became the focus of national pride and a cultural celebration of their new freedom. Every 5 years song festivals still draw audiences of tens of thousands.

Estonia's UNESCO world heritage capital city Tallinn is rich with cultural and architectural diversity. This charming city fuses modern with medieval with a fairytale town square along with a mix of church spires, glass skyscrapers, baroque palaces and buzzing sidewalk cafes.



## THE ORGANIZERS :: Perform International

*"Building Bridges and Transforming Lives through the Power of Music"*

Boldly informed by the belief that music inherently speaks as an expression of the human spirit beyond borders and in all cultures, **Perform International** seeks to empower music directors and ensembles to realize meaningful and life-changing immersion experiences and performances around the world.

- We empower music directors, music ensembles and individual musicians to share and grow in their artistic expression and understanding of people and cultures.
- We design and create rewarding performances as well as educational and cultural immersion opportunities by building and maintaining relationships with domestic and international musicians and music education organizations.
- We partner with concert venues, publicity teams, airlines, hotels, and tour guides to plan and implement operational methods that enhance rather than distract from the artistic experience.
- We provide meaningful and life-changing performance tour experiences that are personal, thoughtful, and efficient in the processes of conceptual artistic and educational development.





## DR. RYAN BEEKEN :: Artistic Director

Ryan Beeken serves as Director of Choral Activities at Wichita State University where he conducts the Collegiate Chorale and Women's Glee Club, teaches choral conducting, and oversees the choral area. He received Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and Bachelor of Music Education degrees from Drake University and Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts Degrees in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University.

Dr. Beeken's choirs have performed at State, Regional, and National Conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and for state and regional NAFME conferences. Beeken is regularly engaged as a conductor, clinician, and adjudicator. His engagements include over 50 All-States and Honor Choirs in nineteen states, the Czech Republic and Austria, and many invited presentations for symposia across the United States and in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He recently served as the Artistic Director A Cappella Abroad in 2018, an international choral festival in Prague and will be conducting additional international festivals in Dublin, Ireland, Muscat, Oman, and Vilnius, Lithuania. He has served on the executive committee of the American Choral Directors Association at both the state and regional level and just completed a term as the President for the D3 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association.

Prior to his appointment at WSU, Dr. Beeken served as director of choral studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and taught at Michigan State University where he conducted the Women's Glee Club. While residing in Des Moines, Iowa, Beeken directed the Drake Chorale at Drake University. He also taught elementary, middle school, and high school music for sixteen years, most recently serving as Director of Vocal Music for Waukee Schools in suburban Des Moines where he led a program of over 300 students and twelve ensembles to national distinction.



## MS. ELAINE HAGENBERG :: Composer-in-Residence

Elaine Hagenberg's music "soars with eloquence and ingenuity" (ACDA Choral Journal). Her compositions have been performed by universities, community choirs, schools, and church choirs throughout the United States and abroad. Her music has been featured at All-State festivals, national and regional American Choral Directors Association Conferences, the National Youth Choir at Carnegie Hall, the Melbourne International Choral Festival in Australia, and the International Children's Choir Festivals in Canterbury and London. With over forty commissioned works, she has composed new music for the American Choral Directors Association Women's Choir Consortium, colleges and universities, community choirs, and churches.

In addition to composing, Elaine has been the guest artist and clinician for numerous conferences and festivals including the Heartland Youth Choir Meet the Composer Festival, the Alleluia Conference at Baylor University, the Voices Unite Festival, the Birmingham First Composer Festival, and the Incanto Mediterraneo International Choral Festival in Milazzo, Italy.

Elaine has music in print with various publishers including Oxford University Press, Hal Leonard, G. Schirmer, and Hinshaw Music. Currently, she publishes her church anthems with Beckenhorst Press and self-publishes her concert music through Elaine Hagenberg Music.





## United in Song - June 26-July 1, 2021

### FESTIVAL TOUR ITINERARY

#### Saturday, June 26, 2021 – DEPARTURE USA

The journey to Estonia begins by boarding an international flight to Tallinn.

#### Sunday, June 27, 2021 – ARRIVE TALLINN

Upon arrival in Tallinn meet with your Tour Manager. Enjoy a festive Welcome Dinner with participating choirs. Overnight in Tallinn.

#### Monday, June 28, 2021 – TALLINN

Breakfast at your hotel followed by a morning rehearsal with Dr. Ryan Beeken and Ms. Elaine Hagenberg. Afternoon sightseeing will include the song festival grounds with an impromptu singing opportunity. Dinner included this evening followed by a rehearsal with Dr. Beeken and Ms. Hagenberg. Overnight in Tallinn.

#### Tuesday, June 29, 2021 – TALLINN

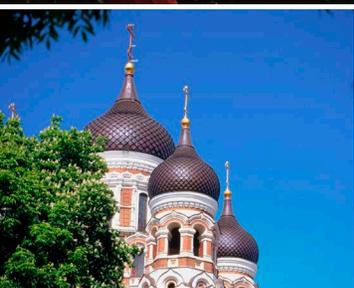
Following breakfast today there will be a sound check at the venue hosting this evening's concert. Afternoon community service project outside Tallinn. Dinner and overnight in Tallinn.

#### Wednesday, June 30, 2021 – FESTIVAL CONCERT, TALLINN

This morning you'll enjoy some free time following breakfast to explore Tallinn on your own. This afternoon we'll meet at the Gala concert venue for a dress rehearsal with a professional orchestra. Evening gala concert under the direction of Dr. Ryan Beeken and Ms. Elaine Hagenberg.

#### Thursday, July 1, 2021 – DEPART TALLINN

Begin your journey back to the USA, taking with you lifelong memories of performing in Tallinn or start of post tours by the individual ensembles.



### POST FESTIVAL TOUR PROGRAMS

#### TOUR B – July 2021

From Tallinn head north by ferry to Helsinki, the capital city of Finland. Enjoy 2 days post festival in the home of renowned composer Jean Sibelius where you'll enjoy a visit to the famous Rock Church and many of the other sights this delightful northern city has to offer.

#### TOUR C – July 2021

Continue to explore the fascinating Baltic States with a visit to Riga, Latvia and Vilnius in Lithuania. Riga is known as the world capital of Art Nouveau as well as host to numerous singing festivals. Vilnius, filled with medieval, gothic, renaissance and baroque buildings will be sure to delight and inspire choristers and is a perfect way to deepen understanding of the Singing Revolution in the Baltic States.

*\*during all post tour programs performances for your individual ensembles can be arranged.*