



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

Berlin & Leipzig, Germany | July 9-14, 2021

Remembrance, Hope, Peace: the Music of Bach, Mendelssohn and Arnesen



Artistic Director

Dr. Pearl Shangkuan
Director of Choral
Activities, Calvin
University



Composer-In-
Residence

Mr. Kim André Arnesen
Composer

The Setting



The Artistic Experience

Following the theme of “From despair to hope - a plea for peace, then and now,” this stirring program will connect the past with the present, with longings and hopes still as relevant for the times we live in. Repertoire will include several short works of Kim André Arnesen, interspersed with various movements from some of the most well known large works by Mendelssohn and Bach. The Gala concert will take place in the Mendelssohn Hall of the famous Gewandhaus in Leipzig. This historically and musically meaningful program is sure to speak to singers and audience alike.

The Setting

For over 800 years, Leipzig has breathed music and celebrates its musicians with festivals every year. Leipzig is known as “heaven” for anyone who loves classical music and sooner or later, anyone who truly admires Bach has to make a pilgrimage to Leipzig, the city where he created most of that wondrous music. However, Bach is not the only reason to visit Leipzig. Felix Mendelssohn lived and worked here, as did Robert and Clara Schumann. Wagner was born and educated here. It’s the home of the famous St. Thomas Boys Choir and the great Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, which celebrated its 275th anniversary in 2018. Music publishing and printing were created here, too! Follow the musical footprints of the world’s greatest composers and discover Leipzig, the city of music!



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.

Faculty



**Dr. Pearl
Shangkuan**

Artistic Director

Dr. Pearl Shangkuan is a highly sought-after conductor, lecturer and clinician all across the United States and internationally. Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Choral Music at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, she is also chorus master of the Grand Rapids Symphony, a Grammy-nominated professional orchestra. Her conducting, teaching and adjudicating engagements have taken her to all over Europe and Asia, as well as Australia, Brazil, Canada and South Africa. Shangkuan has a signature choral series with earthsongs and is the music editor of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Choral series, published by GIA. In 2013, Michigan ACDA honored her with the Maynard Klein Choral Award for “artistic excellence and lifetime leadership in choral music.” Her choirs have performed at American Choral Directors Association national, division and state conferences and for other professional music organizations. She made her conducting debut at Carnegie Hall in 2014 and has conducted numerous All State choirs, ACDA division honor choirs, and other honor choirs and festivals nationally and internationally, and has headlined several ACDA state conferences. She has also served on the jury of several international choral competitions in Europe and Asia, and has led conducting masterclasses for the ACDA national conference, Chorus America, the University of Michigan and University of Illinois Choral Conducting Symposiums among many other renowned institutions and organizations. She served as president of ACDA Central Division and Michigan ACDA, and has commissioned and premiered numerous choral works by composers performed in concert halls around the world. A student of pre-eminent late American choral conductor Dr. Joseph Flummerfelt, she received a Bachelor of Music in Church Music (summa cum laude) and Master of Music in Choral Conducting (with distinction) from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, and a DMA in Choral Conducting from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.



**Mr. Kim André
Arnesen**

Composer-In-Residence

Kim André Arnesen was educated at the Music Conservatory in Trondheim, Norway. As a composer he had his first performance in 1999 with Nidaros Cathedral’s Boys Choir. Since then he has written music that has been performed by several choirs. In 2010, his first large-scale work was performed in the Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim. This was a *Magnificat* commissioned by the Nidaros Cathedral’s Girls Choir. The performance got an overwhelming feedback leading to several new commissions. The *Magnificat* was released on CD in 2014 on the record label 2L. In 2011 his choral motet *Even When He is Silent* was premiered during the St. Olav Festival (Olavsfestdagene) in Trondheim. The motet was commissioned by the festival and was performed during an event with the bishop of Nidaros, Tor Singaas and the international acclaimed Norwegian actress, Liv Ullmann. The piece was also performed during the World Symposium on Choral Music in Argentina 2011 by the Nidaros Cathedral’s Girls Choir. The mixed choir version of the piece was published on Norsk Musikforlag in 2012. The piece have been performed by several Norwegian choirs and choirs in Estonia and the USA. In December 2011, his second large-scale work was premiered. This was a Christmas work commissioned by the Trondheim Chamber Choir and conductor Norunn Illevold Giske. In 2012 Arnesen composed two a cappella pieces commissioned by the Trondheim based choir A Cappellissimo and conductor Grete Daling. Arnesen also made a version of his own Christmas Carol, *Cradle Hymn*, for the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra, and arranged two Christmas Carols for the Nidaros Cathedral’s Girls Choir that were performed with the Trondheim Soloists. Central Division and Michigan ACDA, and has commissioned and premiered numerous choral works by composers performed in concert halls around the world. A student of pre-eminent late American choral conductor Dr. Joseph Flummerfelt, she received a Bachelor of Music in Church Music (summa cum laude) and Master of Music in Choral Conducting (with distinction) from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, and a DMA in Choral Conducting from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.



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Tour Itinerary

Friday, July 9, 2021 - Departure USA

Depart the U.S. for Berlin, Germany.

Saturday, July 10, 2021 - Arrival Berlin

Arrive in Berlin. Panoramic sightseeing that will include Berlin's highlights with a local guide. Dinner and overnight Berlin.

Sunday, July 11, 2021 - Berlin

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning rehearsal in Berlin. Afternoon free for independent sightseeing. Dinner on own. Evening rehearsal and overnight in Berlin.

Monday, July 12, 2021 - Berlin / Leipzig

Short morning rehearsal in Berlin followed by a recital at the Holocaust Memorial. Continue to Leipzig and enjoy a brief city tour. Dinner on own. Evening rehearsal. Overnight Leipzig.

Tuesday, July 13, 2021 - Gala Concert

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning free for independent sightseeing. Dinner included. Evening Gala concert at the Mendelssohn Hall. Overnight Leipzig.

Wednesday, July 14, 2021 - Depart Leipzig / Start Post Festival Tour Programs

Following breakfast begin your journey back to the USA, taking with you lifelong memories of performing in Germany, or start of post tours by the individual ensembles.

Pre/Post Festival Tour Programs

Optional pre- and post-tours for groups of 20 and more passengers are available including additional individual performance opportunities for balanced ensembles. All of PI's pre/post tours are fully customized to each choir's specific needs. Following are some examples:

Tour B - July 2021

From Leipzig head to Prague with a stop in Dresden. Enjoy two days post festival to visit the famous Prague Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral and see many of the other sights this delightful city has to offer.

Tour C - July 2021

From Leipzig head to Prague with a stop in Dresden. Enjoy two days post festival to visit the famous Prague Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral and see many of the other sights this delightful city has to offer. Continue to Vienna for an additional 2 nights and enjoy a tour of Schönbrunn Palace as well as other highlights of this musical city.