



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

Dresden, Germany | June 2024

## Dresden Choral Festival



Artistic Director

**Dr. Gene Peterson**  
Director of Choral  
Studies, California Baptist  
University Collinsworth  
School of Music



Composer-in-  
Residence

**Ms. Elaine Hagenberg**  
Composer & Clinician

# The Setting



## The Artistic Experience

The Dresden Choral Festival is a celebration of the music of composer Elaine Hagenberg and will also include spotlight performances for participating choral ensembles. Multi-generational mixed choirs will have the opportunity to perform Elaine Hagenberg's "Illuminare" coached by the composer and conducted by Dr. Gene Peterson as part of the festive gala concert in the famous Frauenkirche in Dresden.

Artistic Director Gene Peterson and Composer-in-Residence Elaine Hagenberg will work with the participating conductors to create a program that will unite singers and audience, creating an immersive experience for all participants. Fully balanced choirs will also have the opportunity for a spotlight performance during the gala concert in Saxony's beautiful capital city of Dresden.

## The Venue: The Dresden Frauenkirche

The Dresden Frauenkirche looks back on a long history. The various previous churches were already consecrated to Mary, Mother of God, and were named Frauenkirche. In the 18th century, the famous George Bährs domed building was built, which shaped the cityscape of Dresden for two hundred years. Destroyed shortly before the end of the Second World War, the ruins of the Frauenkirche remained as a memorial in the heart of the city until the unique reconstruction project began in 1993. Since 2005 the Frauenkirche has once again been an open church for the city.

Dresden is a major European center for music, with a long operatic tradition and one of the richest classical music landscapes in all of Germany. For centuries, the capital of Saxony drew renowned musicians from around the world who supplied the royal court with music for its vast array of events, from weddings and balls to church masses. Legendary composers Johann Sebastian Bach, Robert Schumann, Richard Wagner, Sergei Rachmaninoff, and Richard Strauss all visited or lived in Dresden, and you can still feel their presence throughout the city.



## The Organizers: Perform International

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

Music and travel are a powerful combination. That is why Perform International has curated a team with a passion and expertise in both. We desire to bring the transformative power of international travel and performance to your program and your ensemble.

We see every trip and festival as an opportunity to celebrate the unique character of each musician while building a sense of unity and belonging through the universal language of music.

Your passion is our priority. Whether you've begun planning or are still dreaming, **our expertise will make your ideal performance and travel experience a reality.** From our first call until you return home, we will be your proactive partner, allowing you to focus on what matters most—your people and your program.

We look forward to working alongside you to create a memorable, meaningful, and cost effective tour for your choir, band, or orchestra.

# Faculty



**Dr. Gene  
Peterson**

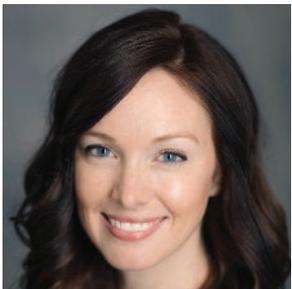
*Artistic Director*

Dr. Gene Peterson, a nationally and internationally recognized conductor, music educator, and church musician, is the Director of Choral Studies at California Baptist University Collinsworth School of Music. Dr. Peterson's primary focus at CBU is in the development of choral arts ensembles, but his diverse and extensive background in both academic and church contexts supports his leadership across the entire choral program at CBU. He also mentors future conductors in CBU's graduate program in choral conducting.

Dr. Peterson's recent appointments include choral and music education faculties at Bethel University and The University of Tennessee. Dr. Peterson previously held posts as music director and conductor for college, high school, church, and community choirs in California, Washington, Tennessee, and Minnesota. Ensembles under his leadership have performed in venues throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, including the Sistine Chapel, the Sydney Opera House, Chicago Symphony Hall, and Carnegie Hall. Due to his reputation in the international choral community, Dr. Peterson is in high demand as a lecturer, choral clinician and adjudicator for local, regional, and international choral festivals and has conducted numerous honor choirs and all-state choirs.

Dr. Peterson holds a Bachelor of Music in Conducting and a Master of Arts in Education from Chapman University in Orange, California, and the Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting from the University of Washington, Seattle.

Dr. Peterson is a consummate choral conductor who combines engaging charisma with musical expression and studied nuance. His breadth of expertise and experience, engaging and articulate teaching, and passion for mentoring the next generation of musicians is most apparent through his work at the Collinsworth School as well as his work around the world.



**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.





June 2024

# Dresden Choral Festival

## Tour Itinerary

### Day 1 - Departure USA

The journey to Germany begins by boarding an international flight to Berlin.

### Day 2- Arrival Berlin

Upon arrival take a panoramic tour of Berlin, time permitting. Dinner and overnight in Berlin.

### Day 3 - Berlin Sightseeing

Morning guided city sightseeing tour of Berlin including a Spree River Cruise. After lunch transfer to Dresden. Dinner followed by an evening rehearsal. Overnight in Dresden.

### Day 4 - Dresden Sightseeing & Rehearsals

Morning rehearsal followed by a guided city tour of Dresden including a visit to the Semper Opera House. Some time at leisure followed by a late afternoon rehearsal, dinner and overnight in Dresden.

### Day 5 - Gala Concert at the Frauenkirche

Dress rehearsal and evening Gala Concert at the Frauenkirche. Farewell dinner and overnight in Dresden.

### Day 6 - Depart Dresden / Start Post Festival Tour Programs

Early morning transfer to Berlin airport for your return flight to the USA or start your post festival tour program.

## 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 - Extension to Leipzig & Halle

Follow in the footsteps of some of Germany's most famous composers such as J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Handel, and Schumann. Spend 2 nights in Leipzig and 1 additional night in Berlin while visiting Leipzig's Thomaskirche, the Mendelssohn Haus, and the Handel Museum in Halle.

### Tour C - Extension to Prague

Transfer from Dresden to the Czech capital Prague, just a short drive southeast along the beautiful Elbe River. Spend three nights in Prague, exploring Dvorak's birthplace, the Mozart manuscripts in Lobkowitz Palace, and St. Vitus Cathedral. Also, enjoy tasting the wonderful Bohemian food that the Czech capital has to offer.

### Tour D - Extension to Munich

Leaving Dresden, drive south to Bavaria. En-route stop in Bayreuth for a visit to the Wagner and Liszt Museums. Munich is a cosmopolitan city at the foot of the majestic Alps. Spend one day exploring Munich and take a day trip to Mozart's hometown of Salzburg.