

Joseph Crnko, conductor

Mr. Crnko is in his 32nd year as Music Director of the Northwest Boychoir. During his tenure, the Northwest Choirs has grown from a small 50-member group with several concerts a year, to a vital arts organization of 200 members in seven progressively graded ensembles, an annual schedule of more than 40 concerts, a biennial international tour program, and a schedule of professional studio recording engagements. In this time, the Northwest Boychoir has established itself as a prominent member of the Pacific Northwest performing arts community sharing the stage regularly with the Seattle Symphony, in addition to other area professional arts organizations.

In 2007, Mr. Crnko joined the Seattle Symphony as Associate Conductor for Choral Activities. In a recent review, the Seattle Times stated, “Trained by associate conductor for choral activities Joseph Crnko, the Chorale’s sound quality has improved beyond all measure the past few years. Crnko has been conductor of The Northwest Boychoir for a quarter-century, and perhaps it’s his great care not to overstrain young voices — while at the same time eliciting beautiful singing from them — that has brought such success to the Symphony Chorale.”

Mr. Crnko regularly conducts orchestral and choral recording sessions for movie and video game soundtracks. Among his many projects are the films *The Last Stand*, *Let Me In*, *Boondock Saints*, *The Celestine Prophecy*, and such video games as *Halo*, *World of Warcraft*, *Diablo* and *Starcraft II*. Mr. Crnko holds an undergraduate degree in Percussion Performance from CSU Sacramento, and a master’s degree in Instrumental Conducting from the University of Washington, where he studied with conductor Michel Singher. Mr. Crnko lives in Seattle with his wife, Wendee, and their two children, Katharine and Nick, now reside and work professionally in Los Angeles.

Christina Siemens, piano

Christina Siemens is an active professional musician in demand as both pianist and vocalist. She began her work with the prestigious Pacific Northwest Ballet in 2003 and was promoted to full time Company Pianist in 2008. Ms. Siemens’ solo keyboard repertoire with PNB includes *Variations Serieuses* (Mendelssohn), *Concerto DSCH* (Shostakovich), *The Four Temperaments* (Hindemith), *Remembrances* (Wagner), *Petite Mort* (Mozart), *Polyphonia* (Ligeti), *The Piano Dance* (Ligeti), *Rubies* (Stravinsky), *After the Rain* (Part), *Rush* (Martinu) and *Pictures at an Exhibition* (Mussorgsky). Her playing of *The Piano Dance*, choreographed by Paul Gibson, was lauded as “exemplary”. She traveled to New York with select PNB principal dancers in May of 2012 to perform ballet excerpts on the Guggenheim Museum’s Works and Process series and returned to the Guggenheim in September with PNB Artistic Director, Peter Boal, to perform on the program *Balanchine Then and Now*. In 2013 she returned to the Guggenheim to present a similar program entitled *Men in Ballet*. In March of 2012 she performed a variety of works in the role of both pianist and vocalist on the Federal Way Chamber Music Series, and was immediately re-engaged for the 2012-2013 season. Performances rounding

out the spring of 2014 season included Seattle Symphony’s production of *Carmina Burana*, PNB’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, engagements with The Tudor Choir and a tour of London with The Byrd Ensemble. Fall 2014 began with a successful performance of Stravinsky’s *Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra* accompanying the PNB production of *Jewels* in Las Vegas. More recent engagements include accompanying *Lessons and Carols* with the Northwest Boychoir, *Fearless but Friendly Masters*, on the Auburn Symphony Orchestra’s Chamber Series, Seattle Symphony recital of Sibelius Art Songs as part of the Seattle Symphony’s Sibelius festival, performances of *Yakona* at the Northwest Film Forum and multiple performances as soprano soloist in *Carmina Burana* and of the Shostakovich *Piano Concerto No. 2* on the final Rep of PNB’s 2014-2105 season. 2016-17 performances include – *Nutcracker* – PNB, Soprano Soloist, Bach & Handel – Seattle Symphony, Soprano Soloist, *Songs of Innocents* – Aaron Jay Kernis, Seattle Symphony, Soprano Soloist, *West Side Story*, Soprano Soloist and Pianist, PNB, *Beethoven and Mendelssohn* – St. Andrew’s Chamber Series – Pianist. Upcoming engagements for the 2017-18 season include *Bern Herbolzheimer Songs* – Seattle Art Song Society, Pianist, *Rubies* – PNB, Pianist, Auburn Symphony Chamber Series, Pianist, Tudor Choir, Vocalist, *Appassionata* – PNB, Pianist and *After the Rain* – PNB, Pianist, concluding with PNB’s Parisian tour in June-July of 2018. Ms. Siemens performs solo roles and works with many of the Northwest’s leading musical organizations, including the Seattle Symphony and Seattle Symphony Chorale, Auburn Symphony, Byrd Ensemble, Tudor Choir, Opus 7, Seattle Pro Musica, Northwest Boychoir, Northwest Girlchoir, 5th Avenue Theatre, St. James Cathedral, St. Mark’s Cathedral, Seattle Opera Previews, Tacoma Opera and Skagit Opera. She studied piano at the University of Washington with Patricia Michaelian and also at the Bowdoin College of the Arts in Maine. Ms. Siemens continues to be very involved in the Seattle studio recording industry, performing on many film soundtrack recordings.



California Concert Tour

July 5 - 16, 2017

JOSEPH CRNKO, CONDUCTOR

CHRISTINA SIEMENS, PIANO

Northwest Boychoir Tour Staff

Joseph Crnko, *Music Director*

Christina Siemens, *Piano*

Maria Johnson, *Executive Director*

Sarah Pohlmann, *Chaperone*

Kathryn Sharp, *Chaperone*

Carolyn Tooley-Young, *Chaperone*

Arvin Wu, *Chaperone*

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Program

Tonight's program to be selected from the following repertoire

Please turn off all cellular phones, watches and paging devices before the performance. The use of flash photography, audio or video recording is prohibited.

Sacred

Adoramus Te Christe	Giovanni Palestrina ca. 1525 -1594
Ave Maria	Camille Saint-Saëns 1835 - 1921
Ave Verum Corpus	Francis Poulenc 1899 - 1963
Beatus Vir	Antonio Vivaldi 1678 - 1741
How Lovely Are The Messengers	Felix Mendelssohn 1797 - 1828
Nigra Sum	Pablo Casals 1876 - 1973
Salve Regina	Javier Busto contemporary
Simple Gifts	arr. Joseph Crnko contemporary
Veni Domine	Felix Mendelssohn 1797 - 1828
Were You There	arr. Joseph Crnko contemporary

Intermission

There will be one 15 minute intermission between sets

Secular

A Song	Scott Warrender contemporary
Choose Something Like A Star	Randall Thompson 1899 - 1984
Danny Boy	arr. Joseph Crnko contemporary
Enchanting Song	Bela Bartok 1881 - 1945

From Sea To Shining Sea
arr. Maurice C. Whitney
contemporary

Home On The Range
arr. Paul Peck
contemporary

Shady Grove
arr. Betty Bertaux
contemporary

Shenandoah
arr. Jennifer Durham
contemporary

Zions Walls
Aaron Copland
1900 - 1990

The Northwest Boychoir's musical sophistication and rich tonal quality have established its reputation as one of the nation's premier boychoirs. With an overall enrollment of more than 200 members, the 32 choristers you're hearing tonight range in age from 10 to 14, and come from all corners of the Greater Seattle area. Northwest Boychoir members are skilled musicians with a passion for the musical arts, and a unique ability to perform great choral literature and contemporary works at the highest professional levels. For more than 40 years, the Northwest Boychoir has trained thousands of young singers, and more significantly, shaped the lives of its members by instilling important lessons in personal commitment, and the value of teamwork and diligence. Northwest Boychoir members are gifted young musicians who read music fluently and perform in professional settings with confidence.

Officially designated the "Singing Ambassadors" of Washington State, the Northwest Boychoir has performed around the world and throughout the United States. International tours have taken the Boychoir throughout Europe, Great Britain, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Mexico. Roughly 30% of Northwest Choirs families receive financial assistance, and the choristers themselves fundraise throughout the year to help meet our organization's commitment that all eligible youth can take part in our programs.

For more than 30 years, the Choirs have maintained a close working relationship with the Seattle Symphony and participate annually in the performance of great choral works. Performances last season included being a featured artist in their Baroque Concert Series. Of that performance, Seattle Times music critic Melinda Bargreen wrote that the Northwest Boychoir sang with "exceptional clarity and balance, imposing unity, precise diction and a soaring lyricism." The choir also joined with the Seattle Symphony for performances of Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms*.

This past January, the Northwest Boychoir received high praise for their performance of Olivier Messiaen's difficult *Trois petites liturgies de la présence divine* with the Seattle Symphony under the direction of Maestro

Ludovic Morlot. In June, the Boychoir again collaborated with the SSO in performances of Ravel's magical opera, *L'enfant et les sortilèges*.

When soundtrack composers need the unique boychoir sound, they often turn to the Northwest Boychoir whose professional talents are featured on films such as the acclaimed *Millions*, *First Daughter*, *Valkyrie* and *Let Me In*, with music written by Oscar-winning film composer Michael Giacchino. The Northwest Boychoir is featured prominently on the soundtrack for Sea World Florida's *Blue Horizons*, and recently completed recording for Cirque du Soleil's new production, *Volta*. The Northwest Boychoir has also recorded soundtracks for such video games as *Medal of Honor*, *Peggle* and the soon to be released *Golem*. Renowned Sound Designer Nick Phoenix chose the Northwest Boychoir for-- his *Quantum Leap Symphonic Choirs* sample library, and the Choir is also featured in the Cinesample choral library *Voxos*. With these two sound libraries, the voices of the Northwest Boychoir are being used by film composers and sound designers worldwide.

In 2010, the Northwest Boychoir premiered Lori Laitman's *Vedem*, with Music of Remembrance. The CD of this work, released on the Naxos label, has won critical acclaim. The previous year, the Boychoir joined with the Seattle Symphony to record Samuel Jones' wonderful children's fable *The Shoe Bird*, which was nominated for a Grammy in 2009. The Northwest Boychoir has produced five holiday recordings, the most recent *A Festival of Lessons & Carols*. In 2006, The Norwest Boychoir was featured on the recording of Hans Krasa's children's opera, *Brundibár* (Naxos).

The Northwest Boychoir

Tigran Avakyan	Rohan Kapur	Will Rayment
Andrew Barnes	Kenan Lauder	Nathaniel Rose
Henry Barnes	Justin Lee	Sebastian Santa Lucia
Henry Bauck	Hanri Luo	Jordan Scherr
Dominic Bennett	David Magidson	Gabriel Sharp
Max Boyd	Keiyu Mamiya	Layth Stauffer
Benjamin Butler	Joe Miller	Aidan Su
Mason Collins	Rayjin Olson	Forrest Wu
Henry Dejanikus	Anders Pohlmann	Sammy Yang
Max Dorn	Eli Porter	Andrew Young
Dominic Giuzio		Alexander Zuniga

CD recordings of the Northwest Boychoir are available in the lobby or from www.nwboychoir.org.