

Cali Conversations

Thursday, April 24, 2025

7:30 – 9 pm

Alexander Kasser Theater

Jake Runestad, *composer & conductor*

PROGRAM

HOSTS: Director Anthony Mazzocchi and Dr. Heather J. Buchanan



GRADUATE CHAMBER MUSIC CLASS

Hannah Bogard, Caitlin Caulfield, Brianna Coppolino, Sarah Sweeney, *sopranos*

Camryn Dewar, *mezzo-soprano*; India Enter, *cello*; Sila Senturk, *piano*

Under the Harvest Moon

Jake Runestad (2009)

Poem by Carl Sandburg (1878 – 1967)

Cello Songs

Runestad (2020)

Libretto by Todd Boss (b. 1968)

Inspired by the poem *Cello* by Dorianne Laux (b. 1952)

- I. Summer
- II. Autumn
- III. Winter
- IV. Spring



“The Peace of Wild Things” from *American Triptych*

Runestad (2013)

Poem by Wendell Berry (b. 1934)

*Paper Boats**

Runestad (2023)

Text adapted from poem *Paper Boats* by Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)

*You’re invited to claim an origami paper boat from the lobby and write something you’d like to be remembered for inside. Please share your boat with a loved one or leave it for the choir to enjoy! Special thanks to Laurel Cousineau (All) for making the paper boats.



UNIVERSITY SINGERS

Steven W. Ryan, *accompanist*

The Secret of the Sea

Runestad (2018)

Poems by Walt Whitman, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow,
Hilda Doolittle, UvavnuK (Iglulik Eskimo)

I. The Unbounded Sea

II. Crash On Crash

III. The Light that Fills the World

Trillium Quartet

JP Bernabe, *double bass*

Taylor Goodson, *percussion 1* + Jayson Greengold, *percussion 2*



Considered “one of the best of the younger American composers” (Chicago Tribune), EMMY®-winning and GRAMMY®-nominated composer and conductor **Jake Runestad** has received commissions and performances from leading ensembles and organizations such as VOCES8, Washington National Opera, the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Munich Radio Orchestra, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra & Chorus, the Pacific Symphony & Chorale, Kantorei (Denver), True Concord Voices & Orchestra, the National Chorus of Korea, the Bavarian Radio Choir, the Netherlands Radio Choir, the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Seraphic Fire, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and many more. “The Hope of Loving,” the first album dedicated to Jake’s choral music, recorded by professional American choir Conspirare, received a GRAMMY® nomination. In 2019, Jake became one of the youngest composers ever awarded the prestigious Raymond C. Brock commission by the American Choral Directors Association. “Earth Symphony,” Jake’s ground-breaking choral symphony written with librettist Todd Boss, earned a 2022 EMMY® Award for musical composition. Jake’s visceral music and charismatic personality have fostered a busy schedule of commissions, residencies, workshops, and conducting engagements, enabling him to share his passion for creativity, expressivity, and community with musicians around the world.

Dubbed a “choral rockstar” by American Public Media, Jake is one of the most frequently performed composers of concert music. His thoughtful and compelling works “that speak to some of the most pressing and moving issues of our time” (Star Tribune), have been heard in thousands of performances across the globe. Jake Runestad holds a Master’s degree in composition from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University where he studied with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts. Find out more at: JakeRunestad.com