



ERIC WHITACRE

CHORAL WORKS

VOLUME 2

BYU SINGERS

RONALD STAHELI, CONDUCTOR

BYU CONCERT CHOIR

ROSALIND HALL, CONDUCTOR

BYU WOMEN'S CHORUS

DAVID M. THOMAS, CONDUCTOR

DIGITALLY REMASTERED

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY CHOIRS AND ERIC WHITACRE 2





first encountered Eric Whitacre's music when preparing a concert program of music by living American composers for Brigham Young University Singers' appearance at the 1996 International Choral Symposium in Sydney, Australia. A friend told me of a "most astonishing piece" written by a fellow student while at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, entitled "Cloudburst," which she thought worthy of performance for "the most discriminating of audiences anywhere." I contacted the composer who was by then at the Juilliard School. Thus began a very fruitful relationship between Eric Whitacre and the BYU choirs.

With Eric Whitacre's close collaboration in 2001, BYU Singers recorded the album *Eric Whitacre: The Complete A Cappella Works, 1991-2001*, which was digitally remastered and rereleased in 2014 as *Eric Whitacre Choral Works, Volume 1: A Cappella Works 1991–2001*. This album, *Eric Whitacre Choral Works, Volume 2*, which was originally released in 2008 and titled *Brigham Young University Choirs and Eric Whitacre 2*, is being rereleased as a followup album of Whitacre's music. While *Volume 1* has been one of the best selling choral CDs all over the world since its original release in 2002, *Volume 2* offers performances not only of Whitacre's pieces for accompanied choir, but also of his a cappella works written since 2001.

The varied performing forces of the pieces in this second album have given us the chance to include with BYU Singers other BYU choirs: BYU Concert Choir, conducted by Rosalind Hall, and BYU Women's Chorus, conducted at the time of the recording by David Thomas.

All of the strikingly beautiful music on this album confirms that Eric Whitacre is not simply the *compositeur du jour*. For though his music is being performed and heralded all over the world, he has proven himself an enduring and driving force in today's choral art, as well as a promising voice for strong direction and vital development for the art for years to come.

Ronald Staheli, conductor
BYU Singers





Recording session with BYU Singers and BYU Concert Choir, Dr. Ronald Staheli (center), and Eric Whitacre (far left) in the Leid Gallery, BYU Museum of Art, 2008





THE ARTISTS

BYU SINGERS

Dr. Ronald Staheli, conductor

Brigham Young University Singers is a highly select ensemble of 40 skilled and versatile singer-musicians that is known for polished and moving concert performances. Under the baton of founding conductor Dr. Ronald Staheli, the choir has gained the reputation of being one of the finest university choirs in the United States and has toured Eastern and Western Europe, the Middle East, the British Isles, West Africa, and South Africa since they were organized in 1984. Their extensive touring in the US and abroad along with many audio recordings and TV broadcasts have given the choir a well-deserved reputation for excellence and artistry. Both critics and audience members report the ensemble to be musically precise, with an impressive flair for stylish and heartfelt interpretation.

BYU CONCERT CHOIR

Rosalind Hall, conductor

Brigham Young University Concert Choir comprises 100 advanced singers who are committed to a challenging choral experience. This very select ensemble has acquired an outstanding reputation for its captivating performances of a wide variety of repertoire taken from the great choral literature, encompassing many different styles and genres. The choir has released two albums: *All Creatures of our God and King* and *Beautiful River*. The choir's performance of Eric Whitacre's "Five Hebrew Love Songs" (on this album and on *Beautiful River*) has been praised by singers.com saying that it "proves to us that the [BYU Concert Choir] is ready to take its place as one of the best mixed choirs in the world." BYU Concert Choir has inspired hearts and minds with their recorded music and is a top favorite of concert audiences.





BYU WOMEN'S CHORUS

David M. Thomas, conductor

Brigham Young University Women's Chorus is a large group of select, versatile singers who perform a diverse repertoire extending from medieval and renaissance works to masterpieces of our own time. Folk music and other varied genres are included in the choir's study and performances. The choir is well known for its beautiful, blended sound from pristine, quiet unison to the majesty of large textured sonorities. BYU Women's Chorus entered the musical mainstream under the baton of current conductor Jean Applonie with its debut solo album, *Wondrous Love*, in 2008. This album gained the attention of numerous composers and arrangers across the country who expressed their desire to write specifically for the choir. BYU Women's Chorus performances garner strong reviews and have been broadcast often on BYUtv.

Producer: Sandefur Schmidt (2008)
Remaster producer and executive producer for
BYU Records (2014): Ben Fales
Recording engineer: Jon Holloman
Editing and mastering engineer: Troy Sales
Licensing: Brad Robins
Graphic design: Dale Boman and Ben Fales
Photography: Sandefur Schmidt
Cover Image: ©iStockphoto.com/vladm

Recording Information:
*Tracks 1–4, 11–14: Recorded at the Leid Gallery,
Brigham Young University Museum of Art, Provo,
Utah: Winter Semester 2008*

*Tracks 5–10: Recorded at the de Jong Concert
Hall, Brigham Young University Harris Fine Arts
Center, Provo, Utah (tracks 5–9: Winter Semester
2005; track 10: Winter Semester 2002)*

For more information about BYU Singers, BYU Concert Choir, or BYU Women's Chorus, please visit choirs.byu.edu.





LITTLE BIRDS

Mediodía (Noon)

La luz no parpadea,
el tiempo se vacía de minutos,
se ha detenido un pájaro en el aire.

*Light unblinking,
time empty of minutes,
a bird stopped short in air*

Más Tarde (Later)

Se despeña la luz,
despiertan las columnas
y, sin moverse, bailan.

*Light flung down,
the pillars awake
and, without moving, dance.*

Pleno Sol (Full Sun)

La hora es transparente:
vemos, si es invisible el pájaro,
el color de su canto.

*The time is transparent:
even if the bird is invisible,
let us see the color of his song.*

A BOY AND A GIRL

Stretched out on the grass,
a boy and a girl.
Savoring their oranges,
giving their kisses like waves exchanging foam.

Stretched out on the beach,
a boy and a girl.
Savoring their limes,
giving their kisses like clouds exchanging foam.

Stretched out underground,
a boy and a girl.
Saying nothing, never kissing,
giving silence for silence.

THIS MARRIAGE

May these vows and this marriage be blessed.
May it be sweet milk,
this marriage, like wine and halvah.
May this marriage offer fruit and shade
like the date palm.
May this marriage be full of laughter,
our every day a day in paradise.
May this marriage be a sign of compassion,
a seal of happiness here and hereafter.
May this marriage have a fair face and a good name,
an omen as welcomes the moon in a clear blue sky.
I am out of words to describe
how spirit mingles in this marriage.



HER SACRED SPRIT SOARS

Her sacred spirit soars o'er gilded spires,
And breathes into creative fires a force;
In well-tuned chants and chords of countless choirs
Lives ever her immortal shadowed source.

From age to age the roll of poets grows;
And yet, a lonely few are laurel-crowned,
In whose sweet words her inspiration shows,
Revealing insights deep and thoughts profound.

O shall Cecelia, or shall Goddess Muse
Reach then to me across eternal skies?
Is heaven's quick'ning fire but a ruse,
Abiding rather here before mine eyes?
Nearer than I dream'd is She whose fame
All poets sing, whose glory all proclaim:

"Long Live Fair Oriana"

FIVE HEBREW LOVE SONGS

TEMUNÁ (A PICTURE)

Temuná belibí charutá;
Nodédet beyn ór uveyn ófel:
Min dmamá shekazó et guféch kach otá,
Usaréch al paná'ich kach nófel.

*(A picture is engraved in my heart; Moving between light
and darkness: A sort of silence envelopes your body, And
your hair falls upon your face just so.)*

KALÁ KALLÁ (LIGHT BRIDE)

Kalá kallá
Kulá shelí.
U'vekalút
Tishák hí lí!

(Light bride She is all mine, And lightly She will kiss me!)

LÁROV (MOSTLY)

"Lárov," amár gag la'shama'im,
"Hamerchák shebeynéynu hu ad;
Ach lifnéy zman alu lechán shna'im,
Uveynéynu nishár sentiméter echád."

*("Mostly," said the roof to the sky, "the distance between
you and I is endlessness; But a while ago two came up
here, And only one centimeter was left between us.")*

ÉYZE SHÉLLEG (WHAT SNOW!)

Éyze shélleg!
Kmo chalamót ktaním
Noflím mehashamá'im

(What snow! Like little dreams Falling from the sky.)

RAKÚT (TENDERNESS)

Hu hayá malé rakút
Hi haytá kasha
Vechól káma shenitá lehishaér kach,
Pashút, uvli sibá tová,
Lakach otá el toch atzmó,
Veheniach Bamakóm hachí, hachí rach.





(He was full of tenderness; She was very hard. And as much as she tried to stay thus, Simply, and with no good reason, He took her into himself, And set her down In the softest, softest place.)

SHE WEEPS OVER RAHOON

Rain on Ragoon falls softly, softly falling,
Where my dark lover lies.
Sad is his voice that calls me, sadly calling,
At grey moonrise.
Love, hear thou
How soft, how sad his voice is ever calling,
Ever unanswered, and the dark rain falling,
Then as now.
Dark too our hearts, O love, shall lie and cold
As his sad heart has lain
Under the moongrey nettles, the black mould
And muttering rain.

LITTLE TREE

little tree
little silent Christmas tree
you are so little
you are more like a flower
who found you in the green forest
and were you very sorry to come away?
see i will comfort you
because you smell so sweetly
i will kiss your cool bark
and hug you safe and tight

just as your mother would,
only don't be afraid

look the spangles
that sleep all the year in a dark box
dreaming of being taken out and allowed to shine,
the balls the chains red and gold the fluffy threads,

put up your little arms
and i'll give them all to you to hold
every finger shall have its ring
and there won't be a single place dark or unhappy

then when you're quite dressed
you'll stand in the window for everyone to see
and how they'll stare!
oh but you'll be very proud

and my little sister and i will take hands
and looking up at our beautiful tree
we'll dance and sing
"Noel Noel"

ANIMAL CRACKERS, VOLUME 1

THE PANTHER

The panther is like a leopard,
Except it hasn't been peppered.
If you behold a panther crouch,
Prepare to say Ouch.
Better yet, if called by a panther,
Don't anther.



THE COW

The cow is of the bovine ilk;
One end is moo, the other milk.

THE FIREFLY

The firefly's flame is something for which science has
no name
I can think of nothing eerier
Than flying around with an unidentified glow on a
Person's posterior.



BYU Singers recording "Little Tree," with Dr. Ronald Staheli (center), and Eric Whitacre (center) in the Leid Gallery, BYU Museum of Art, 2008

BYU SINGERS, 2007–08 [TRACKS 1–4, 11–14]

Devin Anderton, Deanna L. Baker, Karen W. Baron, Nicholas & Christina Bishop, Joshua C. Bishop, Benjamin Boster, Aubrey A. Brinkerhoff, Michelle Broadbent, Colleen Butler, Amy I. Cartwright, B.J. & Rachel Cox, Joel Crane, James & Emily Duncan, Ryann P. Edwards, Lindsay L. Farrell, Anthony & Angie Gardner, Benjamin Gardner, Suzana Garrett, Cherie C. Hall, Jacob Hart, Josh Hendryx, Dane Holmes, Jacob Meldrum, Scott Moore, Evan Moss, Sarah A. Nowland, Jared Oaks, Shea & Amy Owens, Stephen Pace, Valerie Perkins, Scott Perry, Ben Peterson, Daniel Robertson, Brent Rogers, Kadee L. Smith, Andrew Walker, Adam Walton, Shane Warby, Allison J. Ward, Mariah Wilson, Emily Workman





BYU CONCERT CHOIR, 2004–05 [TRACKS 5–9]

Jessica Anderson, Luke Bahr, Emily Bailey, Rachel N. Baker, Hannah Ballard, Andrew Bankhead, Kira Barker, Brooke Robbins, Bridgette Brinkerhoff, Shaunel W. Brown, Jonathan Bullough, Benjamin Castleton, Daniel Chappell, Natalie Cope, James Cragun, Joel Crane, Courtney Cross, Bethany Curd, Andrew Davis, James Duncan, Ryann Edwards, Ellis Elkins, Christina Ellis, Miriam-Lea Estrada, Anthony Gardner, Kathryn Gibbs, Samuel Glanzer, Curtis Goodman, Christy S. Gunnell, Sarah P. Hachtman, Heidi B. Hadlock, Ryan Hancock, Kalli Hansen, Eric Hanson, Vaughn Harris, Aaron Hatch, Christopher Hathaway, Angela Hawkins, Marie Haws, Hillary Haynie, Alicen Hickey, Angela Higbee, Scott Hillstrom, Stephen Holden, Todd Horne, Michael Hull, April N. Huntington, Lani Hyer, Christopher Jewkes, Darin Johnston, Emily A. Kinghorn, Alissa A. Kurth, James Layton, Deanna Lunt, William Mangum, Matthew Martin, Peter May, Rachel McCune, Peter Merrell, Evan Moss, Angela Nelson, Jared Oaks, Cathy W. Oldroyd, Megan R. Olsen, Forrest Pixton, Tyler Rands, Julie Rappleye, Marc Reynolds, Miriam Richards, Daniel Robertson, Allyson Rodriguez, Jacob Rogers, Kelsey Rogers, Amy Scoville, Michael Secrist, David J. Segrera, Michael Kay Sharp, Daniel Silva, Brian Smith, Lachelle H. Smith, Carric Smolnik, Devin Spann, Heidi Spann, Suzanne Stephensen, Nicholas Stetich, Mary Stewart, Tiffany Stoddard, Holly Tippetts, James Van Heel, Rebecca W. Stewart, Derek Whitney, Lillian T. Wilkins, Garin Wood

BYU CONCERT CHOIR, 2007–08 [TRACK 4]

Uijoo Anderson, Marsali C. Andrews, David Armantrout, Tyler Baer, Amanda Bailey, Emily Ball, Andrew Bankhead, Brandon Bastian, Amber Bezzant, Lori Bikhazi, Clinton Blanco, Maura Brewer, Gideon Burrows, Christopher Butters, Adam Calvert, Katherine Carter, Christopher Christensen, Jessica L. Contreras, Elise Davis, Jonathan Duncan, Jill G. Ensign, Bridgette Ethington, William Evans, Lily Ferguson, Phoenix da Luz, Joshua Freeman, Curtis Goodman, Jennifer Goodman, Daniel Gray, David Halgren, Christian Hansen, William Hatch, Jessie Hawkes, Nicholas Herrick, Scott Hillstrom, Kelsey Howell, Ruben Hoyos, Angela Jack, Debra Johanson, Kevin Johnson, Darin Johnston, Rachel Johnston, Aric Johnstone, Jubal Joslyn, Sterling Keyes, Abraham Lee, Andrew Lee, Rachel Ann Loud, Erin McCaughin, Karen McKay, Maria Elise Milligan, Melody M. Neville, Alyce Oblad, Andrew Jun Okabe, Cathy W. Oldroyd, Joseph Allred Olson, Nathan Daniel Owens, Laura O. Page, Spencer Pearce, Heather Perkins, Marc Petersen, Sundry Peterson, Camille Porter, Jacob Price, Lee Ragsdale, Monica Rasmussen, Kathryn Robinson, Samuel Robinson, David Sauer, Emily E. Savage, Mark Schlerf, Nicholas Sherwood, Janneke Shirts, Brian Smith, Laura Snow, Britain Soderquist, Katelyn Stone, Todd Tanner, Stephanie Thomas, Brady Toone, Gregory Von Forell, Jennifer Weiss, Jessica Williams, Alexandra E. Wink, Joshua Wood, Whitney Worthen, Takahiro Yanagita, Mark Zabriskie, B J Zeyer





BYU WOMEN'S CHORUS, 2001–02 [TRACK 10]

Rebekka Aird, Sara Anderson, Ashley Anstead, Ruth Ashurst, Mandy Bailey, Amanda Barden, Airie Barker, Shelby Bautisia, Rachel Beckstead, Jacqueline Beesley, Natalie Benson, Amy Bernards, Amanda Bingham, Ashley Blackham, Carolee Blackham, Lisa Boogert, Meika Boogert, Martha Boyer, Kathryn Breitenstein, Kristin Burrell, Afton Call, Liz Cannon, Megan Cannon, Michelle Cannon, Courtney Cannon, Julia Carlson, Natalie Carter, Charlene Chadwick, Marti Clark, Lucy Clark, Amanda Coleman, Angell Cordner, Katrina Crage, Jenny Curtis, Heather Davidson, Christina Dayton, Sprice Dean, Sharleen DeGaston, Melanie Dewey, Laurie Duffin, Christy Duffin, Brittany Dunford, DeLana Earl, Yo-at Eingal, Emily Esplin, Jenny Evenson, Naomi Feldman, Candace Fife, Kiely Fisher, Maureen Flanigan, JodiAnne Frodsham, Christina Gale, Sarah Galloway, Jamie Gibson, Karen Goodman, Chelsea Griffith, Heather Guest, Cassie Haddock, Anna Haneberg, Lachelle Hansen, Sarah Hardy, Stacey Haslam, Heidi Hemmert, Cheri Hicken, Jennifer Higginson, Karen Johyne Hill, April Honeycutt, Sarah Houghton, Heather Husted, Darlene James, Catherine Johnson, Sarah Justesen, Aili Katherman, Rachelle Koenen, Megan Kuttler, Kristin Laney, Jacque Larsen, Kathryn Lawyer, Ariana Leinbach, Christa Lind, Katie Lovett, Tamra Lutz, Melodie Lyon, Shannon Lyster, M. Dalee MacDonald, Lorie MacGregor, Jennifer Mann, Emily Maxwell, Marie McDonald, Karen McMullin, Hannah Miller, Desiree Millsaps, McKenzie Moody, Jennifer Morgan, Sarah Neeley, Bethany Newman, Stacie Noorda, Rachelle O'Bryant, Sara Olds, Elizabeth Olmo, Katrina Orcutt, Tara Osborn, Lori Packer, Mary Claire Parker, Alexandra Parrish, Harmony Paulson, Crystal Permarn, Melanie Price, Emily Purdy, Crystal Putnam, Holly Quinn, Julie Rappleye, Brecken Reasor, Casee Rice, Carli Richards, Suzi Robbins, Stacey Romney, Janelle Rose, Amber Roundy, Cara Russon, Megan Schneider, Kristin Renee Scott, Kristina Scott, Jenna Seely, Lindsey Sellers, Hannalee Sevey, Erika Shawcroft, Ashley Sheffield, Janneke Shirts, Jenni Smith, Margo Smith, Monica Smith, Anna Snyder, AmyLyn Soelberg, Fiona Stapley, Alena Starr, Rebecca Stearns, Lindsay Stevenson, Melissa Stevenson, Mary A. Stewart, Aurelia Stone, Lesley Stout, Emily Stout, Liz Strein, Lauralyn Swim, Amy Taylor, JulieAnn Tays, Marianne Thomas, Jen Thomas, Angie Thompson, Jana Thompson, Erin Tippetts, Ashley Titensor, Jamie Toiaivao, Chelsea Toler, Heather Toone, Chanelle Walther, Stephanie Walton, Elizabeth Ward, Adriane Watson, Charlotte Weed, Kirin Wells, Michelle Whipple, Rebecca White, Amalie Wickes, Serenity Wiggins, Eva Wilcox, Kristin Willardson, Megan Willardson, Shannon Wilson, Megan Witkamp, Megan Worthen, Whitney Worthen, Natalie Yockey, Melynda Young, Megan Young, Alisha Young





THE MUSIC

ERIC WHITACRE, COMPOSER (b. 1970)

1. LITTLE BIRDS [2001]

Text by Octavio Paz (1914–98)

Sarah Astle Nowland, piano

2. A BOY AND A GIRL [2004]

Text by Octavio Paz, English translation by

Muriel Rukeyser (1913–80)

3. THIS MARRIAGE [2005]

Text by Jalal al-Din Rumi (1207–73)

4. HER SACRED SPIRIT SOARS [2005]

Text by Charles Anthony Silvestri (b. 1965)

FIVE HEBREW LOVE SONGS [2002]

Text by Hila Plitmann (b. 1973)

BYU Honors String Quartet: Ben Chang,
violin; Kate Homer, violin; Leslie Richards,
viola; Scott Thomas Lesser, cello

5. TEMUNÁ (A PICTURE)

6. KALÁ KALLÁ (LIGHT BRIDE)

7. LÁROV (MOSTLY)

8. ÉYZE SHÉLEG! (WHAT SNOW!)

9. RAKÚT (TENDERNESS)

10. SHE WEEPS OVER RAHOON [1995]

Text by James Joyce (1882–1941)

Christina Dayton, piano; Kira Leavitt,
English horn

11. LITTLE TREE [1997]

Text by E. E. Cummings (1894–1962)

Jared Oaks, piano

ANIMAL CRACKERS, VOLUME 1 [2006]

Text by Ogden Nash (1902–71)

Sarah Astle Nowland, piano

12. THE PANTHER

13. THE COW

14. THE FIREFLY

CHOIRS

BYU Singers: Tracks 1–4, 11–14

BYU Concert Choir: Tracks 4–9

BYU Women's Chorus: Track 10

PUBLISHERS

Walton Music Corporation: Tracks 1, 5–10

Shadow Water Music: Tracks 2–4, 12–14

Colla Voce Music: Track 11

