



**Brigham Young University–Hawaii Ho‘olōkahi Chamber Choir Will Perform  
World Premiere of New Requiem at Carnegie Hall**

*Requiem inspired by recent global tragedies, including Maui’s 2023 fires*

**LAIE, HAWAII, April 24, 2025** – On Sunday, May 11, 2025, at New York City’s Carnegie Hall, Brigham Young University–Hawaii’s Ho‘olōkahi Chamber Choir will perform the world premiere of a new requiem inspired by recent worldwide tragedies and disasters. Composed by Dr. Erica Glenn, Director of Choral Activities at BYU–Hawaii, the requiem spotlights recent events in Lahaina (Maui), the Philippines, Ukraine, Tonga, Palestine and Japan. The final movement specifically focuses on the 2023 fires on Maui and the concept of beauty rising from ashes. During the performance, a Hawaii-born member of the choir will dance hula and lay handmade leis at the foot of the stage that represent each country.

The choir consists of survivors from four of the six featured disasters who provided first-hand accounts and assisted in translating the Latin text of the requiem into their native tongues.

“Living through the devastation of Super Typhoon Haiyan changed me forever,” said Mitzi Chou, who survived the disaster in Tacloban City, Philippines. “Sharing my eyewitness account and helping to translate that portion of the requiem into my native Waray language felt like offering a prayer from the heart of our people—a way to let the world hear not just our sorrow, but also our strength. It was a sacred act of remembrance and love.”

Glenn composed the 25-minute [Worldwide Requiem](#) for SATB choir, soloists and orchestra, and features seven movements (“Introit,” “Dies Irae,” “Pie Jesu,” “Sanctus,” “Agnus Dei,” “Liberate Me” and “In Paradisum”) with six of them representing one of the featured tragedies.

“As a musicologist who has conducted research in many Eastern European countries, I have seen choral music operating within and across cultures as a powerful unifier in times of distress,” said Glenn. “The name of our choir—the Ho‘olōkahi Chamber Choir—translates from Hawaiian as ‘those who bring about harmony,’ and our students feel called to build intercultural peace through song. They have experienced firsthand the way singing connects us and heals the wounds of disaster.”

The Chamber Choir consists of 54 BYU–Hawaii students who will make the trip from the Hawaiian Islands to Manhattan. Choir members represent more than a dozen nationalities—including Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, New Zealand, Korea, and French Polynesia—and 21 native/fluent languages.

Sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, BYU–Hawaii is located on the North Shore of Oahu, serving students from more than 60 countries. Many of the choir members work as singers, dancers and guides at the nearby Polynesian Cultural Center where they share their talents and stories with guests.

The Ho‘olōkahi Chamber Choir’s performance at Carnegie Hall is part of the MidAmerica Productions series, which assembles singers from around the world to perform alongside the New England Symphonic Ensemble under the batons of respected conductors. The Worldwide Requiem is one of only four world premieres in this MidAmerica season and the first requiem to ever be performed in multiple non-Western languages with the choir singing in Ukrainian, Tongan, Waray, Arabic, Japanese and Hawaiian. The Utah-based Voices of ‘Ohana and Timpanogos Singers will perform the work alongside BYU–Hawaii’s Chamber Choir and professional opera singers Rachel Blaustein, Sarah Nordin, Ziwen Xiang and Sejin Park who will join as soloists.

The concert begins at 8:30 p.m. EDT on May 11, 2025. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

**About Ho‘olōkahi Chamber Choir**

The mission of Ho‘olōkahi Chamber Choir (HCC) is to generate harmony by capitalizing on diversity, bringing together singers from around the globe in a space where meaningful musical exchange and growth can occur. HCC members seek to establish greater harmony with the surrounding community and to serve as international peacemakers through song. Students feel a sense of the mission they have been called to fulfill within the choir and the ensemble is frequently invited to perform at university devotionals, firesides for visiting guests, dedication ceremonies, inaugurations, and other school functions. HCC presents two full concerts each semester on campus in addition to collaborating with members of the local and global community and embarking on occasional tours to neighboring islands.

**About Brigham Young University-Hawaii**

Brigham Young University-Hawaii offers a unique global learning experience designed to prepare students of Oceania and the Asian Rim to be lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ who are leaders in their families, communities, chosen fields and in building the kingdom of God. The university was founded in 1955 by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and continues to be guided and supported by the Church.

Seventy percent of BYU-Hawaii students are from outside of the United States of America. They hail from more than 60 countries throughout Asia and the Pacific. BYU-Hawaii offers 38 undergraduate degrees and has a student/faculty ratio of 16 to 1.