



# Colorado State University

School of the Arts

Art • Music • Theatre • Dance

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## Press Release

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY CHAMBER CHOIR SPRING CONCERT**

Fort Collins, CO – The Colorado State University Chamber Choir, under the direction of James Kim, presents a concert on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in Griffin Concert Hall in the University Center for the Arts at 1400 Remington St.

Tickets are \$10 for the public and \$5 for Colorado State students and youth ages 6 to 17. Tickets are available from the Campus Box Office in the Lory Student Center, by phone at 970-491-4849, or online at [www.csutix.com](http://www.csutix.com). Advance purchase is highly recommended, though tickets are available at the door one hour before performances begin.

The program includes intricate and beautiful secular and sacred selections starting with *Trois Chansons* by Maurice Ravel with solos by Ashley Baker, soprano, Jane Burgchardt, alto, Cody Laun, tenor, and James Baumgardner, baritone. *Trois Chansons* is one of Ravel's very few pieces for chorus with the a cappella songs being written in 1914 and 1915 while he was waiting to be enlisted in the army.

The Chamber Choir will premiere of the newly published *Suite for Chorus* by Kirke Mechem, a prolific American composer in every genre of composition. Mechem describes the piece as “a test [to] my belief in the primacy of music in choral composition. I wrote a *Suite for Chorus*, subtitled *Songs Without Words*, four pieces that use wordless vowels and consonants in somewhat the same way string music uses various bow strokes and pizzicato (not a new idea). While I took great pains to compose the work specifically for choral singers, I had no text to fall back on for emotional content or formal organization. I had only the devices that composers of instrumental music have (which are considerable): melodic and motivic invention, development, repetition, variation, suspense, climax, contrast, unity, variety-and tried to create a satisfying musical journey.”

The concert continues with *Songs of Ariel* by Swiss composer Frank Martin, an opera theatre setting of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, and featuring James Baumgardner, baritone; *Cantus Missae in Eb*, an a cappella mass written in 1878 by German composer Josef Rheinberger; and concludes with the dramatic spiritual, *Signs of the Judgment* arranged by Mark Butler.

The Chamber Choir, is CSU's top select choir and an auditioned ensemble performing a mix of classical and non-classical repertoire. The ensemble is directed by Dr. James Kim with assistance from two of the Department of Music's excellent graduate choral conductors, Nathan Payant and Jodi Jones.

For a full performance and event calendar, more information, and to sign up for a free event e-newsletter, visit [www.CSUSchooloftheArts.com](http://www.CSUSchooloftheArts.com).

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