

### CSUF Choral Concert

The School of Music presented their fall choral concert on Sunday, October 21, 2018 in the Meng Concert Hall. It featured the University Singers and Concert Choir, as well as many soloists. Robert Istad and Christopher Peterson conducted, along with Mark Salters and Grant Rohr as pianists. Along with the piano, many other instruments were utilized, including percussion, sleigh bells, crotales, and a glockenspiel. Overall, the concert was a very illuminating experience, and some of the pieces were extremely powerful and moving.

The first to perform was the Concert Choir with eight pieces. Some were acapella, but in others the piano complimented the singers well rather than overpowering them. Three of their pieces were German Secular Partsongs, which I enjoyed because I recognized some of the German after singing “Der Tanz” with Vocal Ensemble in our Fall Concert. I enjoyed their closing piece, titled “Sweet Rivers”, the most. It started with only the women and grew very quickly into all of the parts, with very well-executed dynamics. One thing I noticed specifically was the ending chord, in which sound filled the room and ended with a crisp cutoff.

The University Singers followed with three pieces, one of which was titled “the little match girl passion” based on the Hans Christian Anderson story. It was accompanied by a slideshow telling the story along with the soloists. This piece was very memorable, as it was intense and emotional. It utilized a minimalistic arrangement of voices, along with repetition, to emphasize the important words and phrases of the story. Call and response parts were used to build on each other and build up more sound. As a whole, all of the performances were unique and provided a new and memorable choral experience.