

Concert to feature Eastern European music

By [Edward Reichel](#)

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Since becoming the music director of the Salt Lake Choral Artists, Brady Allred has brought a more global perspective to the group's concerts.

Along with traditional choral repertoire, Allred has also programmed works by a number of composers whose music isn't normally — or has never been — performed in Salt Lake City.

On Saturday, the Choral Artists will present a concert centered around Eastern European music, with Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's *Te Deum* as the centerpiece.

"All season we've been presenting glimpses from around the world," Allred told the Deseret News. "And for this concert, we have Eastern European music, and our theme is the desire for freedom using music as the means."

Pärt's *Te Deum* is new for the ensemble, although Allred has conducted it a couple of times previously in Pittsburgh, where he was the music director of the Pittsburgh Bach Choir.

"I love it," he said. "It's a great piece that appeals to many people. It's a true crossover piece. You find that New Age people love it as much as classical people."

Pärt's music is somewhat difficult to describe. While he is a contemporary composer (born in 1935), he doesn't eschew employing traditional elements in his works. "The *Te Deum* is very pitch-oriented," Allred said. "His music's great effect is in using simple elements to create complex sounds."

The *Te Deum* is scored for men's and women's choruses, a mixed choir, strings, prepared piano and wind harp. Joining the Choral Artists will be one of Allred's other choral groups, the University of Utah Singers.

A wind harp has a unique sound, but it's not a common instrument. "Instead of trying to scour the country to find an instrument and someone who can play it, the publisher (of the score) has a recording of that part, and we're going to be using that," Allred said.

Opening the concert will be another *Te Deum*, this one by Czech composer Petr Eben.

"It was written in 1990 to celebrate the freedom the Czech people had just won," Allred said. "It's a great celebratory piece with brass and timpani, and I think it describes how people were feeling at the time."

The concert will balance the sacred first half with a second half devoted to folk music. "The Choral Artists will sing music from the Czech Republic, Yugoslavia and Jewish/Eastern European folk music," Allred said.

The University Singers will also have a segment featuring some of the music they'll be performing on their upcoming European tour in May.

"They're going to be doing some contemporary Hungarian and Slovenian music and close with the Czech piece "Waters Ripple and Flow," Allred said. "That song should be familiar to many people here, because the Tabernacle Choir has done it in the past."

If you go ...

What: Salt Lake Choral Artists, Brady Allred conductor

Where: Libby Gardner Concert Hall, University of Utah

When: Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.

How much: \$18.75 general admission, \$12.75 senior citizens and students

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