



An evening of poetry and music with award-winning poet and veteran, **BRIAN TURNER** featuring the **MID-COLUMBIA MASTERSINGERS**.

HERE, BULLET:

POETRY & MUSIC FROM THE IRAQ WAR

Content Warning: may not be suitable for all audiences. Features graphic depictions of war and explicit language.



MARCH 24, 2023

BRIAN TURNER

Turner is the author of two poetry collections, *Here, Bullet* which won the 2005 Beatrice Hawley Award, the New York Times "Editor's Choice" selection, the 2006 PEN Center USA "Best in the West" award, and the 2007 Poets Prize, among others; and *Phantom Noise*, which was shortlisted for the 2010 T.S. Eliot Prize in Poetry. He is also the author of a memoir, *My Life as a Foreign Country*, which made Powell's Best Nonfiction of 2014 list. Turner served seven years in the US Army, including one year as an infantry team leader in Iraq with the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.



About the Poet

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PROGRAM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

POETRY FROM THE IRAQ WAR

“Here, Bullet,” seven songs for voice, chorus, and piano, music by Reginald Unterseher
Leslie W. Green, tenor

1. Here, Bullet
2. Ashbah
3. Sadiq
4. Eulogy
5. Jameel
6. The Hurt Locker
7. To Sand

POETRY OF THE VETERAN EXPERIENCE

A conversation about the veteran experience
Brian Turner, Ted Miller, Stella Williams, Reginald Unterseher

“Phantom Noise,” from DREAMS OF THE FALLEN, music by Jake Runestad

POETRY OF LOVE AND LOSS

“On This Harvest Moon,” music by Reginald Unterseher

Sponsored by Arts Foundation of the Mid-Columbia, Mid-Columbia Mastersingers, and Amentum

THANK YOU

*Dahami Uduwana, sophomore at Kamiakin High School
Joyce Donais, English teacher at Kamiakin High School
Daishaundra Loving-Hearne with Urban Poets Society
Shalom United Church of Christ*

MID-COLUMBIA MASTERSINGERS

Reginald Unterseher, Associate Conductor
Benjamin Walley, Piano

SOPRANO	ALTO	TENOR	BASS
Mary Dann	Clarissa Fraley	Derek Hughes	Nelson Green
Jacqueline Green	Lisa Hill	Jeff Markillie	Glenn Holmes
Molly Holleran	Amber Johnson	Stephen Miller	Daniel Jordheim
Mitzi Holmes	Ellen Kathren	Ted Miller	Timothy McCall
Samantha Schneider	Tanya Knickerbocker	Matthew Monroe	Weston Walker
Elida Wadsworth	Erin Patterson	Matt Smith	Aaron Welling



Brian Turner, Poet

Brian Turner is the author of five collections of poetry including *Here*, *Bullet* (2005), winner of the 2005 Beatrice Hawley Award, the New York Times “Editor’s Choice” selection, the 2006 PEN Center USA “Best in the West” award, and the 2007 Poets Prize; and his most recent, *The Wild Delight of Wild Things* (2023). He is also the author of the memoir *My Life as a Foreign Country*, which made Powell’s Best Nonfiction of 2014 list.

My Life as a Foreign Country (2014) follows the experience of one soldier in one recent war—the preparations, actions, homecomings, and infinite aftermath—but then explodes from those narrow limits. Turner’s account combines recollection and imagination and leaps centuries and continents to seek parallels in the histories of other men. The result is an opportunity to enter the head of a man still stalked by war, to experience conflict with new definition and lasting effect. Benjamin Busch calls the memoir a “brilliant fever dream of war’s surreality, its lastingness, its place in families and in the fate of nations. Each sentence,” he says, “has been carefully measured, weighed with loss and vitality, the hard-earned language of a survivor who

has seen the world destroyed and written it back to life.” Jen Percy in the New York Times Sunday Book Review declared, “*My Life as a Foreign Country* is a triumph of form and content, and a praiseworthy example of how the empathetic imagination can function beautifully in nonfiction writing.... History can only be served by this kind of attention.”

Turner served seven years in the US Army, including one year as an infantry team leader in Iraq with the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. Prior to that, he was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1999-2000 with the 10th Mountain Division. In his poetry and prose, Turner conveys both elegant and devastating portraits of what it means to be a soldier and a human being.

In addition to his poetry and memoir, Turner is the editor of *The Kiss* and co-editor of *The Strangest of Theatres* anthologies. A musician, he has also written and recorded several albums with The Interplanetary Acoustic Team, including *11 11 (Me Smiling)* and *The Retro Legion’s American Undertow*.

Turner’s poems and essays have been published in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *National Geographic*, *Harper’s*, among other fine journals, and he was featured in the documentary film *Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience*, which was nominated for an Academy Award. A Guggenheim Fellow, he has received a USA Hillcrest Fellowship in Literature, the Amy Lowell Traveling Fellowship, the Poets’ Prize, and a Fellowship from the Lannan Foundation. His poems have been published and translated into Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish, Swedish, and more.

He lives in Orlando, Florida, with his dog, Dene, the world’s sweetest golden retriever.

VETERANS AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Wounded Warrior Project:

<https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/programs/mental-wellness>

US Dept of Veterans Affairs:

<https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov>

Veterans Crisis Line:

Dial 988 then press 1

24/7 confidential crisis support for veterans and their loved ones

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>

800-273-8255 then press 1



Reginald Unterseher, Composer

Reginald Unterseher is Music Director and Composer-in-Residence at Shalom United Church of Christ, Richland, Washington. His works are published by Oxford University Press, Walton Music, MusicSpoke.com, and his web site, as well as in the Justice Choir Songbook.

He was the Washington State Music Teacher's Association's "Composer of the Year" for 2013.

Mr. Unterseher's compositions are regularly performed throughout the world and have been featured at regional and national ACDA and MENC conventions in the US as well as at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Reginald Unterseher has always been drawn to composing pieces about the natural world and current events. His career path has careened between being a ski instructor, an opera and music theater performer, an at-home dad to three children, a conductor, and voice teacher. He has served WA ACDA and NW ACDA in several R&R roles over the last 20 years. He is a founding member

of Northwest Choral Publishing. Reg has had more of his compositions performed in a nuclear reactor than any other composer in history, living or dead.

He was born in Walla Walla, Washington in 1956.

Jake Runestad, Composer

Considered "one of the best of the younger American composers" (Chicago Tribune), EMMY®-winning and GRAMMY®-nominated composer and conductor Jake Runestad has received commissions and performances from leading ensembles and organizations such as Washington National Opera, the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra & Chorus, the Pacific Symphony & Chorale, True Concord Voices & Orchestra, the Netherlands Radio Choir, the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Seraphic Fire, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and many more. "The Hope of Loving," the first album dedicated to Jake's choral music, recorded by professional American choir Conspirare, received a GRAMMY® nomination. In 2019, Jake became one of the youngest composers ever awarded the prestigious Raymond C. Brock commission by the American Choral Directors Association. "Earth Symphony," Jake's ground-breaking choral symphony written with librettist Todd Boss, earned a 2022 EMMY® Award for musical composition. Jake's visceral music and charismatic personality have fostered a busy schedule of commissions, residencies, workshops, and conducting engagements, enabling him to share his passion for creativity, expressivity, and community with musicians around the world.



Dubbed a "choral rockstar" by American Public Media, Jake is one of the most frequently performed composers of concert music. His thoughtful and compelling works "that speak to some of the most pressing and moving issues of our time" (Star Tribune), have been heard in thousands of performances across the globe. Jake Runestad holds a Master's degree in composition from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University where he studied with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts. Find out more at: JakeRunestad.com



Leslie W. Green, Tenor

Tenor Leslie W. Green is in high demand as a soloist in the Northwest and beyond. Praised for his seemingly effortless, expressive singing, Mr. Green performs a wide variety of literature ranging from Bach arias to contemporary art songs. A lover of choral singing, Green has appeared throughout the Northwest with many of the finest ensembles including Bach Cantata Choir, Portland Symphonic Choir, Resonance Ensemble, and many more. He is a long-time member of the internationally recognized professional ensemble Cappella Romana, performing in numerous concerts, multiple recordings, two appearances at the prestigious Utrecht Early Music Festival, and multiple tours to destinations across Europe, the United States, and Canada.

Les works in Information Systems at the University of Portland, enjoys running, reading, video games and generally being curious about the wider world.



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