



ERIC WHITACRE

Grammy-winning composer and conductor Eric Whitacre is one of the most popular musicians of our time. His concert music has been performed throughout the world by millions of amateur and professional musicians alike, while his groundbreaking Virtual Choirs have united singers from over 110 different countries. A graduate of the prestigious Juilliard School of Music, Eric was recently appointed as Artist in Residence with the Los Angeles Master Chorale having completed a five-year term as Composer in Residence at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University, UK.

As conductor of the Eric Whitacre Singers he has released several chart-topping albums including 2011's bestselling *Light and Gold*. A sought after

guest conductor, Eric has conducted choral and instrumental concerts around the globe, including sold-out concerts with the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Minnesota Orchestra. In addition to several collaborations with legendary Hollywood composer Hans Zimmer, he has worked with British pop icons Laura Mvula, Imogen Heap and Annie Lennox.

A charismatic speaker, Eric has given keynote addresses for many Fortune 500 companies and global institutions including Apple, Google, the World Economic Forum in Davos, the United Nations Speaker's Programme and two main stage TED talks.

Special thanks to UWF's Department of Music, Chair Dr. Sheila Dunn, Dr. Peter Steenblik and the UWF Singers.

The University of West Florida Department of Music is a NASM accredited program providing students with a high quality, personalized, undergraduate education for careers in the fields of music performance and music education.

The UWF Singers was founded in 1967 at the newly established University of West Florida. Since 2015, the UWF Singers are under the direction of Dr. Peter Steenblik. With frequent collaborative performances with the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra, the Pensacola Choral Society, and the Pensacola Children's Chorus, the UWF Singers have continued to be an example of choral excellence in the Northwest Florida region.





OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS, THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA HAS UNDERGONE A PROFOUND TRANSFORMATION. UWF HAS BEEN THE GATHERING PLACE FOR BRIGHT MINDS IN NORTHWEST FLORIDA. WE HAVE COLLABORATED IN THE COMMUNITY WITH A PROGRESSIVE SPIRIT, AND WE'VE SERVED AS AN ECONOMIC DRIVER IN OUR REGION AND STATE. UWF WENT FROM A GRADUATING CLASS OF 58 TO A WORLDWIDE ALUMNI NETWORK OF NEARLY 80,000.

TONIGHT, WE CELEBRATE THE PUBLIC LAUNCH OF UWF'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN. WE THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF THIS EXCITING VOYAGE. YOUR PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY ENABLES UWF TO SHAPE ITS OWN DESTINY. AS WE HONOR THE PAST 50 YEARS, WE EAGERLY ANTICIPATE THE NEXT 50 AND CONTINUING OUR LEGACY OF TRANSFORMATION—UWF'S SEA CHANGE.

WE SEE CHANGE COMING, FASTER THAN EVER, AND WE'RE READY FOR IT. BECAUSE WE'RE LEADING IT—ALL THANKS TO YOU.

WE ESPECIALLY WANT TO EXPRESS OUR UTMOST GRATITUDE TO UWF'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE. THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS HAVE PROVIDED THEIR LEADERSHIP FOR THIS HISTORIC CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

MORT O'SULLIVAN, CHAIR	K.C. CLARK
LEWIS BEAR JR., HONORARY CHAIR	SANDY SANSING
JOE AMBERSLEY	BENTINA TERRY

UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA
50TH ANNIVERSARY
Gala

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING
COMPOSER ERIC WHITACRE AND THE UWF SINGERS

WELCOME:
DR. BRENDAN KELLY,
VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT
PRESIDENT, UWF FOUNDATION INC.

DINNER

UWF'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:
LEWIS BEAR, JR., BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIR
DR. JUDY A. BENSE, UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT
MORT O'SULLIVAN, EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR

CLOSING PERFORMANCE WITH
ERIC WHITACRE AND THE UWF SINGERS