



**TACOMA  
REFUGEE  
CHOIR**



## Welcome!

We are the **Tacoma Refugee Choir (TRC)**, a nonprofit music ensemble that brings together refugees, immigrants and friends, to collectively create spaces that foster a sense of community through new connections and music. We believe these spaces promote artistic expression and shared community that fulfill a need nearly as essential as food and shelter. In these spaces, like this one that you are sharing with us tonight, our choir family hopes to spread an enthusiastic message of hope and empathy. We hope you feel that throughout tonight's program.

This concert is our season finale performance before we start a new season in September. Tonight, you will experience a program of music, reflections, and motion that culminates one of the most rewarding years for our choir. Thank you for being a part of tonight's special performance, and we hope to see you again in a few months!



*Members of TRC in Cincinnati perform at the American Choral Directors Association Conference*

*Learn more about TRC at [www.refugeechoir.org](http://www.refugeechoir.org)*



## A Note from Erin

I am delighted to welcome you to the season finale performance of the Tacoma Refugee Choir. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support, which has enabled us to support immigrants and refugee friends in our community.

If you have followed TRC for a while, you will notice how our journey has evolved. We work every day at creating a more welcoming spirit – in our Choir and in our community. One way we have evolved is our renewed focus on creating spaces where authentic sharing is possible. Rather than asking people to share of themselves, we realize more and more our role is to create the spaces where our friends feel welcome to share in the ways they wish. We hope you feel you are in such a space this evening.

As we come to the end of this season, I want to express my appreciation for the dedication and hard work of our choir members. Their commitment to excellence and their willingness to share their heritage through music have been truly inspiring. We are all blessed by their gifts.

Finally, I want to thank you, our audience, for your continued support. Your presence here tonight is a testament to the impact that the Tacoma Refugee Choir has in the community. I hope that you will enjoy our performance and leave inspired by the beauty of diversity and the power of music to bring us together - because we have so much more to do to be even more welcoming. Tonight is a celebration of all our efforts so far. Thank you.

*Erin Guinup*  
*Executive & Artistic Director*



*Learn more about TRC at [www.refugeechoir.org](http://www.refugeechoir.org)*



*\* Speakers are in italics*

**Welcome / Introductions**

**Jambo Bwana**

**Boker Tov (Good Morning)**

**Coming Back**

**Mission Statement Song**

*Speaker: Marsha*

**Moon Song**

**Morin Khuur (Horsehead Fiddle)**

*Speaker: Becky*

**Who I Want To Be**

*Speaker: Ran*

**Help Me Find a Home**

**Hope**

*Speaker: Mary Eileen*

**Connected**

**Miracle**

**Everyone Can Love Someone**



## We Are Pleased to Welcome

**Orlando Morales** is the newest member of our team and joins TRC as our Assistant Artistic Director. Orlando is a Seattle-based musician, educator, and songwriter. He most recently served as Associate Artistic Director: Community Engagement at The 5th Avenue Theatre and holds a Masters in Teaching from the University of Washington. He has over seventeen years of experience teaching music and theater and in employing the performing arts to empower young people, build community, and dismantle systems of oppression. He is a Johnny Mercer Foundation Songwriters Project alum and a Jonathan Larson Grant finalist (2019, 2020, 2022). Recent music direction credits include *How to Break* (2018, 2016), *Great Wall* (2012), and *Cloaked* (2011, 2010).

Orlando also coordinates **Rondalya sa Seattle**, a Filipino American folkloric music ensemble and is a member of the Shades of Praise Gospel Choir at St. Therese Parish. He is a proud son and current resident of the Skyway neighborhood in South Seattle.





## Tacoma Refugee Choir is...

- Ala
- Anne
- Annie
- Maricres
- Anu-Ulin
- Becky
- Bhagirath (Bud)
- Da'Nitra
- Diane
- Erin
- Gadine
- Galang
- Julie
- Ina
- Kaelin
- KarynAnne
- Katia
- Krystal
- Linda
- Linus
- Lynndi
- Mariia
- Marsha
- MaryEileen
- Maurice
- Michael
- Michelle
- Perry
- Priya
- Ran
- Sander
- Shannon
- Temuulen
- Temuujin
- Tshishiku



## Acknowledgments

Tonight's concert would not have been possible without generous support from **Molina Healthcare of Washington** and **Tacoma Creates** for their visions of a vibrant and healthy community. We also thank **Tacoma Community College** for making available this space that really amplifies the joyful spirit of our performance.

A very warm and special thanks to our musical guests tonight. We were so happy to welcome **Erica Walker** as our guest director to lead our debut performance of "Miracle". We are also honored once again by the **ZJE Mongolian Music Ensemble**, who enchants us all with their traditional songs from across the world. It was truly a gift to hear those sounds here in Tacoma and spend this past choir season growing together as friends and artists.

Most of all, we are thankful to you, our friends and supporters. You make us feel welcome.

## Being Welcoming Is Everyone's Job

- We welcome others by being better hosts. Learning, improving our understanding of the world, connecting to others' perspectives and ideas - these are all ways we can grow together and become more welcoming. In 2023, TRC is fully committed to that growth.
- Help us share our message of hope. Post about the Tacoma Refugee Choir on social media using the hashtag #refugeechoir, follow us online, and join our mailing list.
- Be a friend. Take every chance to send a warm greeting. Find new connections to new cultures and communities. The power of a smile or a hug to someone new cannot be underestimated. Simple acts of love change the world.
- Your financial contributions help us continue to serve by delivering on our mission. The Choir thrives on generous donations to make events like tonight free and participation in the Choir open to all without cost. We hope to serve even more people in the coming year and invite you to support this important movement to build a more welcoming community through singing and sharing together. You can contribute at [www.refugeechoir.org](http://www.refugeechoir.org).

