

University of Toronto Faculty of Music presents:

**2024 John R. Stratton Visitor in Music: Will Crutchfield, conductor
Introductory Lecture: “Pre-Modern Singing in the Modern World”**

Moderated by Stephen Clarke, executor of the Stratton Estate.

Monday, February 5, 2024, 3:10–5:00 pm | Walter Hall, 80 Queen’s Park

Named for a great collector of vocal music and historical recorded sound, the John R. Stratton Visitor in Music brings distinguished specialists in the field of voice, opera, and collaborative piano to the Faculty of Music. We are grateful to Stephen Clarke, trustee of the Stratton Estate for his generous support of the Faculty of Music.

Will Crutchfield has divided his opera career between conducting, musicology, and education. As Director of Opera for the Caramoor International Music Festival from 1997 to 2017, he has conducted over 30 titles by Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini and Verdi with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s and soloists including Lawrence Brownlee, Angela Meade, Vivica Genaux, Hao Jiang Tian, Ewa Podleś, Sumi Jo, Jennifer Larmore, Georgia Jarman, John Osborn, Michael Spyres, and Hei-Kyung Hong. He has also held posts as Music Director with the Opera de Colombia (Bogota) and Principal Guest Conductor of the Polish National Opera (Warsaw), and has made guest appearances with many theaters, including the Rossini Opera Festival (Pesaro), the Canadian Opera Company, the Washington National Opera, and the Minnesota Opera among others.



For Ricordi and the Fondazione Rossini he prepared the critical edition of *Aureliano in Palmira*, also conducting the production at Pesaro that won first place as “Best Rediscovered Work” in the 2015 International Opera Awards. In the same year he was named a Fellow of the Guggenheim Foundation in recognition of his operatic work, and in 2017 he was named as one of Musical America’s thirty “Movers and Shapers” for his leadership in innovative training and performance. In 2020 he was featured in The New York Times for his first-ever reconstruction of Beethoven’s sketches for the lost tenor aria from the

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

As part of the Faculty’s commitment to improving Indigenous inclusion, we call upon all members of our community to start/continue their personal journeys towards understanding and acknowledging Indigenous peoples’ histories, truths and cultures. Visit indigenous.utoronto.ca to learn more.

1805 opera *Leonore*. His other reconstructions include Donizetti's unfinished Symphony in E Minor, the only known full-scale concert symphony by a major Italian composer of the 19th century.

He has contributed articles on historical performance practice to the New Grove Dictionaries of Music and numerous scholarly journals, and is currently completing a book on the same subject for Oxford University Press.

Stephen Clarke is Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music with expertise in historic recordings, and Chair of the UK-based Historic Singers Charitable Trust. His interest in historic records and performance practice began in the 1950's; he later studied singing with Howell Glynne, Elizabeth Benson Guy, and Greta Kraus.

Through the Stratton Trust, he is custodian of a large collection of historic vocal recordings, a collection which resides at the University of Toronto. For seventeen years, with Ward Marston of Marston Records, he has supported and co-produced CD reissues of historic recordings. As his latest project he worked with an expert computer programmer to create a searchable database of all the recordings made by The Gramophone Company (EMI) and its affiliates in the 78 RPM era.



Mr. Clarke has lectured about singers of the past at the Faculty of Music, The Royal Conservatory, and the Canadian Opera Company.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

John R. Stratton Visitor in Music: Will Crutchfield, conductor
Public Workshop: Cadenzas and Cuts in Bel Canto Repertoire
Feb. 5th, 6:30–9:00 pm | Walter Hall

John R. Stratton Visitor in Music: Will Crutchfield, conductor
Master Class I: Bel Canto Songs and Early Arias with Ornamentation
Feb. 6, 12:10–2:30 pm | Walter Hall

John R. Stratton Visitor in Music: Will Crutchfield, conductor
Master Class II: Historical Performance Practice in the 21st Century
Feb. 7, 6:30–9:00 pm | Walter Hall

Thursdays at Noon: John R. Stratton Visitor in Music: Will Crutchfield, conductor
Master Class III: Bel Canto Opera Arias
Feb. 8, 12:10–2:30 pm | Walter Hall