



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FACULTY OF MUSIC

Seasons of Song

Tenor/Bass Choir

Dr. Mark Ramsay, *conductor*

Kevin Stolz, *collaborative pianist*

Soprano/Alto Chorus

Dr. Elaine Choi, *conductor*

Eunseong Cho, *collaborative pianist*

Sunday, October 20, 2019

2:30 pm

Church of the Redeemer

162 Bloor Street West

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 most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. 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.

PROGRAM

Tenor/Bass Choir

Dr. Mark Ramsay, *conductor*
Kevin Stolz, *collaborative pianist*

The Vagabond

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

Winter Proverbs

Frances Farrell*
(b. 1971)

- i. Prologue: The Pine in Winter
- ii. Winter's Dance
- iii. Cold Comfort

Der Nussbaum
from *Myrthen* Op. 25, No. 3

Robert Schumann
(1810-1856)
arr. by D. Jason Bishop

Sleep Now

Matthew Emery*
(b.1991)

When October Goes (with Autumn Leaves)

Joseph Kosma (1905-1969)
and
Barry Manilow (b. 1943)
arr. by Paul Langford

Soprano/Alto Chorus

Dr. Elaine Choi, *conductor*

Eunseong Cho, *collaborative pianist*

The Lake Isle of Innisfree

Eleanor Daley*
(b. 1955)

Three Seas

Alice Parker
(b. 1925)

- i. There is solitude of space
- ii. As if the Sea should part
- iii. A soft Sea washed around the House

Traverse Bay

Jeff Smallman*
(b. 1965)

Snowforms

R. Murray Schafer*
(b. 1933)

Combined Choirs

Spring

E.K.R. Hammell*
(b. 1993)

Eunseong Cho, *pianist*
Dr. Elaine Choi, *conductor*

Voice on the Wind

Sarah Quartel*
(b. 1982)

Jacob Valcheff, *percussion*
Dr. Mark Ramsay, *conductor*

* *denotes Canadian composer*

PROGRAM NOTES

Tenor/Bass Choir Program Notes

Ralph Vaughan Williams wrote **The Vagabond** as the opening song in his cycle *Songs of Travel* for solo baritone voice and piano. Each of the songs in the set uses poetry by Robert Louis Stevenson and the complete set was finished between 1901 and 1904. The traveller, the main character of the cycle, is introduced in *The Vagabond*, showcasing his resolve to leave the pressures of the world behind and embrace a simpler life in the countryside. This determination can also be heard in the march-like quality of the piano part.

The different movements of **Winter Proverbs** are linked thematically using the texts from various proverbs about winter. The lyrics in the opening movement speak to the steadfastness of winter, ice, and pine trees. These sentiments are underscored by the austere treatment of voice and rhythms, as though the voices themselves are frozen. The second movement is a playful realization of the word “dance”. The tongue-in-cheek treatment of the lyrics in the third movement asks choristers to confront the thorny issue of how to pronounce the word “either”.

Program note by composer Frances Farrell

Robert Schumann’s song cycle *Myrthen* was a wedding present to his wife Clara Wieck. *Myrthen*, or “myrtles”, were the flowers traditionally associated with a marriage celebration. Schumann completed the *Myrthen* cycle in 1840, totalling 26 *Lieder*, with texts by prominent 19th-century German poets such as Heinrich Heine, Friedrich Rückert, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, and others. In Schumann’s setting of the wistful, dreamlike poem **Der Nussbaum** by Julius Mosen, simple, rather repetitive vocal material floats above an ever-flowing accompaniment, painting the picture of wind blowing through the leaves of a beloved walnut tree in front of the lovers’ home.

Program note by arranger D. Jason Bishop

Canadian composer Matthew Emery completed **Sleep Now** in 2011 for *Primus: Amabile Men’s Choir* from London, Ontario and dedicated the work to the choir’s founder and co-artistic director Carol Beynon. Using text by James Joyce, the homophonic work employs numerous subtle tempo changes and harmonic dissonances to portray the unrest and search for comfort referenced by the poetry. Matthew is currently completing doctoral studies in composition at the University of Toronto.

When October Goes (with Autumn Leaves) is an arrangement by Paul Langford of the two familiar songs. The work opens with the melancholy jazz standard Autumn Leaves, written by Joseph Kosma in 1945. Langford cleverly links the tune with Barry Manilow's 1984 song, When October Goes, which also uses lyrics created by Johnny Mercer. Together, they weave the story of love lost and painful memories brought on by the changing seasons.

Soprano/Alto Chorus Program Notes

Originally commissioned by Eileen Baldwin and St. Mary's Children's Choir for their 20th anniversary in 2001, **The Lake Isle of Innisfree** was composed by Eleanor Daley using the text by Irish poet William Butler Yeats. The poem speaks of the welcoming joys of nature and the peace and solitude that one can have from the outer world – the buzzing of bees, lapping of lake water, and the glimmer of the lake with its purple glow.

Toronto based composer, Eleanor Daley is a celebrated organist, collaborative pianist, conductor, and choral composer. The Director of Music at Fairlawn United Church was the winner of the National Choral Award for Outstanding Choral Composition of the Year in 2004. Her choral compositions are celebrated both nationally and internationally.

Three Seas is a collection of poems written by Emily Dickinson, an American poet of the nineteenth century. Set to a three movement choral work for women's chorus, composer Alice Parker uses simple devices to achieve sophisticated effects perfectly reflecting each poem. In its first movement, each phrase starts in "solitude" from unison expanding to long chords. In As if the Sea should part, a three-part busy canon in 5/8 depicts the many layers of seas and shores. The third movement has a gentle swaying motif, painting the picture of a soft sea in its summer air. American composer, teacher, and conductor Alice Parker was recently recognized in an article from her alma mater Smith College; in it, she mentioned her mission in creating more women's chorus repertoire: "I've written quite a bit for women's voices because I know how relatively little repertoire there is," she says. "I feel like I have a responsibility to pick texts that really have meat to them and set them for women."

Canadian composer Jeff Smallman composed **Traverse Bay** using the text by Indigenous Canadian writer E. Pauline Johnson. The folk style of this composition paints a joyful, lively yet simple life by the bay. Sheltered by the shore, we are unfazed by the storm threatening sky. Nineteenth-century poet E. Pauline Johnson contributed greatly to Canadian literature. Her notable poems and performances celebrate her Indigenous heritage.

R. Murray Schafer is a renowned Canadian composer, educator, artist, and environmentalist. His unique graphic notation is effective in creating soundscapes, giving space for choristers to explore and experiment with different choral tones. **Snowforms** was inspired by Schafer's personal observation of the forms and foldings of the snow in Ontario. This piece includes scattered words alternating with humming. The words included are some of the many Inuit words for snow, including Apingaut (first snowform), Qanit (falling snow), Akelrorak (newly drifted snow) and Tiltuktortok (snow beaten down).

Combined Choir Program Notes

Commissioned by Director of Music Elaine Choi and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church of Toronto, **Spring** received its premiere performance in the spring of 2019. This work is set for SATB chorus by Canadian composer E.K.R. Hammell with text by Toronto-based poet Janet Mason. The piece is meant to evoke visions of flourishing and blossoming flora (the piano accompaniment) over which the vocalists soar blissfully above.

Sarah Quartel created both the text and music for her work **Voice on the Wind**. The piece features SATB voices and hand drum and was commissioned by Gemischter Chor Augusta, Sapporo City, Japan and their artistic director Takayuki Fukuda. With a catchy melody, imitative scat singing, and a driving hand drum accompaniment, this piece has all the hallmarks of Quartel's compositional style.

Program notes by Elaine Choi, Karis Persaud and Mark Ramsay.

BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Mark Ramsay is the artistic director of the Exultate Chamber Singers as well as the conductor of the University of Toronto Tenor/Bass Choir, the U of T Scarborough Concert Choir, and the MNjcc Community Choir. In addition to his conducting work, he is an adjunct professor at the U of T Faculty of Music where he teaches graduate choral conducting lessons, an undergraduate course in choral music education, and works as an administrator for the choral area. He holds a DMA degree in choral conducting from U of T where he was a student of Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt. He was a recipient of an Elmer Iseler National Graduate Fellowship in Choral Conducting, and multiple U of T Fellowships and an Ontario Graduate Scholarship.

Kevin Stolz is a pianist based in Toronto. Hailing from the mountains of upstate New York, he completed undergraduate studies in jazz and contemporary music at Humber College in Toronto, receiving his Bachelor of Music in 2014. After graduation, Kevin was active in the contemporary scene, performing with alt-pop band Andi on CBC TV and venues throughout Ontario and Quebec. He also produced the acclaimed jazz big band album *The Twilight Fall* by Chelsea McBride's Socialist Night School. Kevin has now returned to his original passion of classical performance, and he is privileged to study with Steven Philcox in the Master's program in collaborative piano at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Elaine Choi contributes to Toronto's vibrant choral community as a conductor, educator, adjudicator, and collaborative pianist. She is the Director of Music at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, Past-President of Choirs Ontario, and the conductor of the University of Toronto Soprano/Alto Chorus. Elaine holds a BMusEd, MMus and DMA in choral conducting from U of T where she studied with Dr. Doreen Rao and Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt. She was a recipient of the Elmer Iseler Fellowship in Choral Conducting and is the 2018 recipient of the William and Waters graduation award from the University of Toronto. Elaine has recently founded Babel, an SATB chamber ensemble with a mission to bridge cultures with choral music by promoting works by Canadian and Chinese composers.

Being a versatile musician as an organist, conductor, harpsichordist and collaborative pianist, **Eunseong Cho** has contributed her talent to Toronto's music community for many years. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a Master's degree in organ performance under the tutelage of Dr. John Tuttle. She studied with Sir Colin Tilney, and was a harpsichordist for the U of T Early Music Ensemble under the direction of Jeanne Lamon. She also studied choral conducting with Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt. She serves as music director at The Korean Philadelphia Presbyterian Church and as collaborative pianist for U of T Women's Chamber Choir and Soprano/Alto Chorus.

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Tenor/Bass Choir

Dr. Mark Ramsay,
conductor
Kevin Stolz,
collaborative pianist
Bradley Christensen,
vocal coach
Michael Denomme,
choir manager

Tenor

Jaqui Chang
Andy Di
Nikhil James
Erik Kreem
Sung Han Lai
Cameron Martin
Antonio Mendicino
Nathan A. R. Richards
Dameng Tang
Ivan Tapel
Jacob Thomas
Simon Vandenberg

Baritone

Michael Denomme
Qiushi Jiang
Kousha Kavianitabar
Benjamin Kersey
Kevin Lau
U Chol Lee
Woojeong Lee
Christian Matta
Oliver Peart
Mikelis Rogers
Evan Tanovich
Bang Jing Yeo

Bass

Jaime Barrow
Elijah Goldstein

Franciz Gonzales
Brian Liang
Zhuoyue Lyu
Ben Mike
Sean Parker
Liam Pond
Andrew Stanco
Peter Wang

Soprano/Alto Chorus

Dr. Elaine Choi,
conductor
Eunseong Cho,
collaborative pianist
Tiffanie Samuels,
vocal coach
Rebecca Synard and
Jane Zuchelkowski,
choir managers

Soprano

Lynna Bao
Alexis Bateman
Lindsay Bui
Beatrice Duong
Maria Fedyushina
Charlotte Goss
Siobhán Gyulay
Emily Harris
Katherine Ho
Manishya Jayasundera
Paige Jeffrey
Kathleen Kovacs
Camille Labonté
Joanna Li
Priscilla Menezes
Lara Moshaver
Ismene Papadopoulou
Arya Patel
Karis Persaud
Sarah Richardson

Nikolina Ropar
Alessia Signorella
Alisha Suri
Diyara Toktamyssova
Julie Wang
Joelle Wong
Naomi Wong
Cindy Yu

Alto

Jayne Abe
Annie Cao
Lucy Cheng
Ivy Ding
Alice Du
Vivian Kwok
Yu Pin Lai
Lin Li
Chiki Ogawa
Tessa Prasuhn
Claudia Rando
Lizzy Ritthaler
Hannah Semeniuk
Lydia Shan
Rina Shim
Neanne Sta Monica
Rebecca Synard
Emily Tam
Michelle Wang
Gillian Wang
Tina Wang
Yin Yin
Victoria Yuan
Sunny Zhai
Angela Zhang
Yuhan Zhang
Mia Zheng
Stephanie Zou
Jane Zuchelkowski

Upcoming Performances

U of T Percussion Ensemble: *Reset I: Early Pioneers*

Tue Oct 22 at 7:30 pm
Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park | Free

U of T 12tet

Thu Oct 24 at 7:30 pm
Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park | Free

Sing your Sorrow, Sing your Joy

with the MacMillan Singers and Women's Chamber Choir
Sun Oct 27 at 2:30 pm
Church of the Redeemer, 162 Bloor Street West
Ticketed: \$30, \$20 senior, \$10 student

Contemporary Music Ensemble: *Frankenstein!!*

with the U of T Saxophone and Percussion Ensembles,
Parker Clements, baritone, and Maeve Palmer, soprano
Thu Oct 31 at 7:30 pm
Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park | Free

Student Composer Concert

Tue Nov 19 at 7:00 pm
Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park | Free

Purcell's King Arthur

Tue Nov 19 at 7:30 pm
Trinity-St. Paul's United Church, 427 Bloor St. W.
Ticketed: \$30, \$20 senior, \$10 student

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music.utoronto.ca | 416-408-0208

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