



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

University of Toronto Soprano-Alto Chorus and Tenor-Bass Chorus

Kathleen Allan, Thomas Burton, Maria Conkey, Michael Denomme, Walter Mahabir, *conductors*
Friday, March 22, 2024 at 7:30 pm | Church of the Redeemer, 162 Bloor St W, Toronto

Unfortunately, due to the official snowfall warning and busing of our guest choirs, the Oakville Choir for Children & Youth will not be able to perform with us this evening. As disappointing as it is, we look forward to the possibility of collaborating with Oakville in the Fall. Our concert this evening will still be wonderful - short and intimate.

PROGRAM

Tenor-Bass Chorus

Psalm 129

Lili Boulanger

Salvation is Created

Pavel Chesnokov

Michael Denomme, *conductor*

A Moment to Freedom (world premiere)

Candace Bustard

Ameil Lang, *percussion*; Josh Chong, *flute*

Miniwanka

R. Murray Schafer

Nachtegesang im Walde

Franz Schubert

Olivia Esther, Amanda Bolger, Ilinca Stafie, Jessica Lin, *horns*

Soprano Alto-Chorus

Never One Thing

May Erlewine, *arr.* Corie Brown

Joanna Xiong, *percussion*

Annie Hoang, Erin Yip, Trinity Thai, Josheen Bayabos, Eve Channell,
Elienna Wang, Jeanne Tsui, Yoonie Park, Emma Puscalau, *soloists*

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.

To Timarion

Sheldon Rose

Trinity Turino, *soprano soloist*

The bird, was just a bird (world premiere)

Homa Samiei

Poem by Forugh Farrokhzad, Translated by Shole Wolpe

How the Blossoms are Falling

Ramona Luengen

Drei Gesänge, Op. 111b, No. 3 "Er ist's"

Max Reger

Where the Light Begins

Susan LaBarr

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Max Reger, *Drei Gesänge Op. 111b, No. 3 "Er ist's"*

Frühling läßt sein blaues Band
Wieder flattern durch die Lüfte;
Süße, wohlbekannte Düfte
Streifen ahnungsvoll das Land.
Veilchen träumen schon,
Wollen balde kommen.
- Horch, von fern ein leiser Harfenton!
Frühling, ja du bist's!
Dich hab ich vernommen!

*Spring lets its blue ribbon
flutter again in the breeze;
a sweet, familiar scent
sweeps with promise through the land.
Violets are already dreaming,
and will soon arrive.
Hark! In the distance - a soft harp tone!
Spring, yes it is you!
It is you that I have heard!*

– Eduard Mörike, 1832

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Donors to Choral Studies

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Collaborative Piano Studies and Professor Steven Philcox

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SOPRANO-ALTO CHORUS

Kathleen Allan, *conductor*

Eunseong Cho, *collaborative pianist*

Nathan Gritter, *assistant conductor*

Grace Hakala, *vocal coach*

Soprano 1

Christina Baksay

Josheen Bayabos

Eve Channell

Lindsay Faulkner

Anastasia Galarneau

Annie An Nhi Hoang

Josephine Leung

Zige Lin

Yoonie Park

Emma Puscalau

Frieda Yau

Anastacia Zavgorodniy

Soprano 2

Shabnam Bahrami Asl

Hanna Cai

Yule (Fiona) Fu

Ana Garcia Flores

Julia Hrelja

Candice Jiang

Danielle Millet

Jenise Pan

Kaela Peever

Mara Tanovich

Sofia Tarnopolsky

Jeanne Tsui

Trinity Turino

Ashley Wang

Anna Yefimenko

Alto 1

Pari Bahrami Asl

YuLing Chen

Tina Chen

Anika Fung

Bienca Fung

Julie Fung

Korin Inoue

Ginger Lam

Bingbing Li

Ingrid Ma

Alyn Shen

Melody Shui

Trinity Thai*

Kirsten Marie Villegas

Amanda Wang

Fiona Xiao

Claire Xiao

Joanna Xiong

Erin Yip*

Amanda Yu

Sophia Zhang

Alto 2

Chiya Hou

Sophia Jestadt

Eunice Lau

Elisa Ma

Seyedeh Sepideh

Mirkiyaei Tamijani

Suet Kee Angela Ng

Pauline Ou

Yana Shamis

Cherie Qiuyu (Fiona) Shu

Cathy Wang

Elienna Wang

Claudia Wong

Sunny Zhao

*ensemble manager

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO TENOR-BASS CHORUS

Thomas Burton, *conductor*

Chun Yi Tsang, *collaborative pianist*

Michael Denomme, *assistant conductor*

Peter Bass, *vocal coach*

Tenor

Skylar Bandelin

Sebastien Brunner

Denzel Chayson

Kenny Cheng

Daniel Wang Gomes

Felix Hill

Kailun (Lucas) Jin

Lucas Kalechstein

Alejandro de Leon Mejia

Niko Pan

Tristan Stryjink

Hayden Thomas

Andrew Torgovstev

Wesley Wang

Steven Zhai

Charles Zhu

Bass

Noah Amodeo

Jay-Danial Marco

Banbanhan

*

Cameron Boulter

Jayden Browne

Michael Denomme

Neil Gonputh

Desmond Kumphrey

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Molina

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Adam Wang

Matthew Wang
Emmanuel Wong

Matthew Woolard
Peter Zougas

*ensemble manager

BIOGRAPHIES

Kathleen Allan

Kathleen Allan is the Artistic and Executive Director of the Amadeus Choir of Greater Toronto and a member of the music faculty at the University of Toronto. In high demand as a guest conductor, commissioned composer, and clinician, she is equally comfortable working in early, contemporary, and symphonic repertoire. From 2016-2023, she served as the Artistic Director of Canzona, Winnipeg's professional Baroque choir, with whom she conducted many of the masterworks of the Baroque era. Originally from St. John's, NL, she has conducted orchestras and choirs across Canada, the US, and Japan, and recently made her conducting debuts with the Victoria Symphony (2022), Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (2019) and Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra (2020). She was the 2016 winner of the Sir Ernest MacMillan Prize in Choral Conducting.

Her compositions have been commissioned, performed and recorded by ensembles throughout the Americas and Europe and have been featured at two World Symposiums on Choral Music. Her music is published by Boosey and Hawkes, Oxford University Press, and Cypress Choral Music, and she is a MusicSpoke composer. Also an accomplished soprano, she has appeared as a soloist and professional choral singer with orchestras and choirs across Canada and the US, and with the Arnold Schoenberg Chor in Vienna. She holds a degree in composition from the University of British Columbia and a master's degree in conducting from Yale University.

Thomas Burton

Raised in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Thomas Burton is Artistic Director of the Orpheus Choir of Toronto, Conductor of the Tenor-Bass Chorus at the University of Toronto, and Artistic Director of Durham Region's RESOUND Choir. Praised for his innovative and eclectic programming as well as his dynamic presence on the podium, Thomas is in-demand nationally as a guest conductor, clinician and educator.

Thomas is passionate about inspiring excellence in performers of all ages and abilities. He has had the privilege of working with such ensembles as the Pacific Chorale, The Amadeus Choir of Greater Toronto, Pro Coro Canada, the National Youth Choir of Canada, and the Vancouver Chamber Choir. An accomplished tenor, Thomas has sung with some of Canada's finest choral ensembles including the Toronto Mendelssohn Singers, Voces Boreales, and the Nathaniel Dett Chorale.

Thomas is a recipient of the Iwan Edwards Award in Choral Conducting, the Ken Fleet Choral Conducting Scholarship, and the Sir Ernest MacMillan Memorial Foundation Award. He holds a bachelor's degree in Trombone Performance from McGill University and a master's degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Michigan where he studied with Dr. Jerry Blackstone and Dr. Eugene Rogers.

Eunseong Cho

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 studying under 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 Light Korean Presbyterian Church and as collaborative pianist for U of T's Soprano-Alto Chorus.

Yvonne Choi

A prolific musician, Yvonne Choi has had tremendous success working as a solo and a collaborative pianist, specifically in the Greater Toronto Area, Halton Region, and Kitchener-Waterloo. As a solo performer, Yvonne has performed with the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony Orchestra, Wilfrid Laurier Symphony Orchestra, and Wilfrid Laurier Reading Orchestra, to name a few. Amongst the orchestral world, Yvonne has shared the stage with the likes of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Mississauga Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Chinese Orchestra, and the National Youth Orchestra. Yvonne is a prolific professional in the choral setting, having performed with countless choirs, notably the Mississauga Festival Choir, Elmer Isler Singers, Orpheus Choir of Toronto, Grand Philharmonic Choir, and Toronto Children's Chorus. Furthermore, Yvonne has received invitations to perform in Masterclasses for renowned musicians such as Barbara Hannigan, Lawrence Lesser, Michael McMahon, the Penderecki String Quartet, The Gryphon Trio and more.

Yvonne is passionate about community outreach and a firm advocate for inclusivity and unity. Using music as a communicative tool, Yvonne works with all ages to build accessibility around music. Since the pandemic in 2019, Yvonne has enjoyed combining the life of performance and behind the scenes work. Yvonne is currently the Faculty Organist/Pianist and Performance Coach at Appleby College in Oakville. She also serves as the Theory director and is one of the Collaborative Pianists with the Oakville Choir for Children and Youth. Yvonne has garnered extensive teaching and directing roles across diverse settings, showcasing her seasoned professionalism. In addition to her position as the Music Director of Glen Abbey United Church in Oakville, Yvonne imparted her expertise and leadership as Associate Director of Sheridan College's production of *First Drafts* and Co-Music Director of Vanier College's production of *9 to 5* from York University. Beyond her experience in the realms of directing and performing, Yvonne maintains an active teaching and recording studio; her students are no strangers to awards of distinction, while Yvonne herself being a sought-after musician for many recording projects.

Building on her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Wilfrid Laurier University under the guidance of Leslie De'Ath, Yvonne completed her Masters in Collaborative Piano Performance under Lydia Wong from the University of Toronto. Yvonne has won first prize in major competitions such as the Ken Murray Concerto Competition and Wilfrid Laurier Concerto Competition. She was the recipient of multiple scholarships, notably the Richard Kehn Scholarship in recognition of being an outstanding student in the area of music performance, Ken Murray Scholarship, Lydia Wong Scholarship, and the Penderecki String Quartet Prize. Throughout her on-going musical career, Yvonne has taken lessons by renowned pedagogues, such as Marietta Orlov, Steven Philcox, Jamie Parker, Jonathan Crow, and Joseph Johnson.

Maria Conkey

A native of Newfoundland and Labrador, Maria Conkey (she/her), is an inspiring and innovative conductor, clinician, and pedagogue in Canada's choral scene. She is passionate about choral music to create community and foster leadership in young people. In addition to beginning her

Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) at the University of Toronto, she is the Artistic Director of the Oakville Choir for Children & Youth and the Outreach Co-ordinator at St. Michael's Choir School.

Maria is also the 2023-24 recipient of the Elmer Iseler National Graduate Fellowship in Choral Conducting, and was a nominee for the 2023 Leslie Bell Prize for Choral Conducting. She has also received the Beryl Barnes Memorial Graduate Award and the Andreas Barban Memorial Scholarship.

Past engagements include the Junior Choir Conductor at St. Michael's Choir School, the Artistic Director of Young Voices Toronto, the Conductor of the award-winning senior choirs at St. Bonaventure's College (NL), and the Choral Director at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist (NL). She has also worked with Shallaway - Newfoundland Youth in Chorus and several children's, youth, and adult choirs, including the Alberta Youth Choir and the University of Alberta Madrigal Singers.

Michael Denomme is a Canadian musician, educator, conductor, and performer, holding a Bachelor of Music with honorary standing from the University of Toronto. With a background in classical piano and music education, he is currently studying Choral Conducting with Dr. Jamie Hillman in the Master of Music program at the University of Toronto. Michael has had the pleasure of participating in choral conducting workshops throughout North America, including the Vancouver Chamber Choir's conducting symposium, and the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music's international conductors training program, where he studied with Dr. Kari Turunen and Dr. Joe Miller respectively.

Further, Michael was a Choral Scholar in the Near North Voices choir (North Bay), and has studied conducting and vocal pedagogy with Dr. Adam Adler (Nipissing University), acting as his assistant conductor for the 2018 season. This experience was extremely influential in his current love and passion for the choral arts.

Michael is now the associate conductor of the Mississauga Children's Choir, where he leads the Junior choir. Additionally, Michael is the assistant conductor of the Main Choir at the Toronto Children's Chorus, VIVA Singers Toronto's Every Voice Matters chorus and the University of Toronto's Tenor Bass Choir. He has worked previously as an assistant conductor with U of T's MacMillan Singers, as an apprentice conductor with Exultate Chamber Singers, and Toronto Children's Chorus. Michael is looking forward to returning to North Bay to conduct the North Bay Symphony Orchestra in April 2024.

Walter Mahabir

Walter Mahabir is a graduate of McGill University with a Master's degree in choral conducting, as well as a Bachelor's degree from York University in classical voice. He was the former Choral Conductor at the Community Music Schools of Toronto, assistant conductor of the Resound Choir of Oshawa as well as the Orpheus Choir of Toronto, and has sung with the Toronto Mendelssohn Singers, Ontario Male Chorus, Ottawa Bach Choir, Nathaniel Dett Chorale, Cantabile Chamber Singers, Voces Boréales, and the Canadian Male Chorus. Walter has taken part in choral concerts and choral conducting workshops in Canada, the United States, Austria, France, Czech Republic, Italy and Germany. He is currently the conductor of Brave Voices and Noble Voices - the boys and men's choirs with the Oakville Choir for Children and Youth. In addition, Walter is currently working at his alma mater as Junior Choir Conductor of St. Michael's Choir School.

Chun Yi Tsang

Chun Yi Tsang is a Master of Music student in the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music Collaborative Piano program. As a musical performer, and under the guidance of Professor Steven Philcox, her training intersects piano solos, collaboration with singers and instrumentalists, and ensemble music. She has performed in international festivals and masterclasses coached by Graham Johnson, Margo Garrett, and Mirror Visions Ensemble.

A recipient of the Garth and Marjorie Beckett Fellowship in Collaborative Piano and the France-Canada Cultural Exchange Experience France Award, Chun Yi is working on her collaborative recital program featuring French *mélodie*, while having just finished a specialized program in chamber music at the European American Musical Alliance's Summer Music Institute in Paris. She has taught for over ten years, including in individual lessons, accompanist in children's choirs, and conducting in percussion bands, and since 2020, has taken on the position as Hong Kong Joint School Music Association's piano competition adjudicator.