



THE FESTIVAL CHORUS

64th SEASON | 2022 - 2023

LET THE PEOPLE

Sing!



With
*Michael
Zaugg*

Sunday, March 19, 2023 | 3:00pm | Bella Concert Hall, Mount Royal University

www.THEFESTIVALCHORUS.com



THE
FESTIVAL
CHORUS

64th
SEASON
2022 - 2023

Artistic Director

Mel Kirby

Accompanist & Assistant Director

Cody Obst

Marketing

Danielle Kondruk

www.THEFESTIVALCHORUS.com

Logo, Season Theme & Program Design:
Kevin Persaud | www.kpersaud.com

CELEBRATING 64 YEARS!

The Festival Chorus has been lauded by Calgary Herald reviewer Kenneth DeLong as one of Calgary's pre-eminent choral groups – "able to deliver the excitement and choral thrill that only a fine choir can."

The Chorus has been applauded for its professionalism, musicality and inventive programming. The 40 to 50 auditioned members of the Chorus perform an annual series of three concerts, presenting the staples of a five-century-old choral repertoire—everything from the larger oratorio works requiring massive, stirring sound, to that of more intimate a cappella chamber works and swinging jazz selections.

The Festival Chorus was founded by Gerald Bales, O.C. and John Searchfield during the 1958-1959 season to perform a Handel-Purcell Festival. It became a standing amateur, community chorus and was conducted by John Searchfield until 1979 and then by Dr. Brian Trevor from 1979 to 1991.

The Festival Chorus built its reputation on annual performances of full-evening oratorios works such as J.S. Bach's *Mass in B minor* and *St. John Passion*; Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, *Judas Maccabeus*, and *Solomon*; Haydn's *The Creation*, Mozart's 'Great' *Mass in C Minor*, Brahms' *A German Requiem* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and *St. Paul* and, in the realm of 'early music', Monteverdi's *Vespers of the Blessed Virgin 1610*.



MEL KIRBY

Artistic Director and Conductor

Now in his 32nd season with the Chorus, Mel has served as Artistic Director, since 1991, conducting performances of major works with orchestra by J.S. Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, and Brahms. Under his leadership the Chorus, now in its 64th season, has assumed a role as a historic choral force in the city displaying what the Calgary Herald has described as "a new professionalism in programming". His experience also includes five seasons as Conductor of the Calgary Bach Festival Society and two seasons at the helm of the Civic Symphony. He has been on the staffs of the University of Calgary Music Department, the Banff Centre's Music Theatre Program, and Mount Royal University. He is currently Manager of Calgary Opera's McPhee Artist Development Program.



CODY OBST

Chorus Accompanist and Assistant Conductor

In addition to The Festival Chorus, Cody Obst is Conductor of the Calgary Women's Chorus and Music Director at Lakeview United Church. He has received many awards and scholarships (Brandon University Silver Medal, 10K Province of Alberta Scholarship, prizewinner Snjolaug Sigurdson Competition, Manitoba Provincial Champion competing in the National Music Festival.) He has two decades of experience with twelve different choirs and has participated in choral intensives with the Vancouver Chamber Choir and the University of Michigan. World Choral Symposiums (Copenhagen, Seoul), among other clinics, have proven invaluable. He has created and delivered special choral programs for the Calgary Board of Education and Alberta First Nation Communities.

LET THE PEOPLE Sing!



Cody Obst, Pianist & Assistant Conductor
Featuring **Gerry Hébert, saxophone & Chris Santos, percussion**

WELCOME!

“Would you have your songs endure? Build on the human heart.”

– Robert Browning

We wish you a Warm Welcome from The Festival Chorus for this second Let the People Sing! community weekend workshop and concert. Our first in 2019 was a collaboration and joint concert with the Vancouver Chamber Choir and its long-time conductor Jon Washburn. For this 2023 iteration of Let the People Sing! we are thrilled to be able to host the incomparable choral pedagogue and artist Michael Zaugg, Artistic Director of Edmonton’s lauded Pro Coro professional ensemble. His dominance in our nation’s choral activities and internationally, his renown, and his influence are without measure.

Avid choristers from the Calgary community have responded to the opportunity to learn from Michael and experience his masterful instruction as The Festival Chorus serves as the anchor of this afternoon’s ensemble. Working together we’ve prepared six classic and contemporary masterworks chosen and led by Michael which the Community Singers will perform and provide a communal choral experience for them and our audience.

Michael also leads The Festival Chorus’ portion of this program which includes other repertoire selected by him highlighting the exciting energy and fertile imagination of the contemporary Canadian and international choral scene. Please accept our gratitude for attending today, your continuing support, and sharing with us in acclaiming the timeless power of music.

– **Mel Kirby**
Artistic Director



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

During our 64th Season, The Festival Chorus, in the spirit of reconciliation, acknowledges that we live, work, and play on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsut’ina, the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

THE FESTIVAL CHORUS 2022-2023 SEASON CHORUS MEMBERS

SOPRANOS

Patricia Austin-Edy
Kathleen Colmant
Alice Dietrich
Simone Emery
Shirley Green
Greta de Groot
Angela Herbst
Dawn Johnson
Regina Landwehr
Nancy Lear
Janet Northcott
Anne Paul
Donna Marie Perry
Nicole Pitre
Catherine Wall
Katherine Wright

ALTOS

Colleen Bailey
Elwyn Brown
Susan Gallup
Sabine Gilch
Luisa Izzo
Evelyn Jain
Sarah Jones
Sandi Kallal
Eleanor Lamm
Bonnie Limpert
Denyce Lundeen
Hilary Meakin
Margaret Miyagishima
Helga Shield
Foyita Sleumer
Gita Werapitya

TENORS

Peter Baljeu
Daryl Broley
David Keith
Cam Schneider
Leo van Gelder
Doug Warne

BASSES

Paul Brown
Dale Kirschenman
Alan Lee
Peter Lundy
Peter McIntyre

SPECIAL ADJUNCT CHORUS MEMBERS

Branden Olsen, Bass-baritone

GUEST COMMUNITY SINGERS

Joining in the *LET THE PEOPLE SING!* workshop and performing select works on this program.

SOPRANO

Cheryl Aitkins
Sofia Batinic
Joan Elaine Embleton
Joanna Henry
Sandra Sims

ALTO

Glennis Brittain
Yvonne Courtney
Mary-Jo Hackney
Holly-Jean Kadonaga
Elizabeth Lietz
Teresa Principe
Barbara Schneider

TENOR

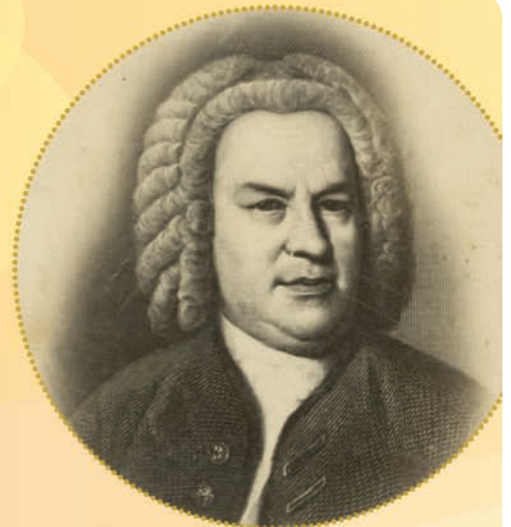
Dennis Daly
Allan Davies

64th Season | 2022-2023

IMMORTAL Bach

Saturday, May 6, 2023
7:30pm | Knox United Church

THE
FESTIVAL
CHORUS



Join The Festival Orchestra and a quartet of vocal soloists for an evening of masterworks. Bach's stirring '*Ascension*' Oratorio/Cantata no. 11, and the delightful '*Hunt*' Cantata no. 208 featuring the beloved *Sheep May Safely Graze*.

Tickets: \$30 Adult | \$27 Senior | \$15 Student - Available at:
www.THEFESTIVALCHORUS.com



TODAY'S GUEST ARTISTS



MICHAEL ZAUGG Guest Conductor

Swiss-native Michael Zaugg is currently in his 9th season as Managing and Artistic Director Pro Coro Canada in Edmonton, Michael also previously led other notable Canadian choirs including, the St. Lawrence Choir (2008-2013), Voces Boreales (2006-2015), and the Cantata Singers Ottawa (2005-2014). Active as a Guest Conductor, Michael has worked with groups including the Vancouver Chamber Choir, National Youth Choir of Canada, and the BBC Singers. As Chorus Master of the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal (2006-2011), he successfully prepared groups of up to 1500 singers for OSM Artistic Director Kent Nagano. Michael also prepared the Cantata Singers Ottawa for their appearances with the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

Michael Zaugg is strongly committed to his work with emerging artists. He is the Program Director of CHORAL ART at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity for which Pro Coro Canada received the Award for Outstanding Innovation from Choral Canada in 2020. He created the educational component #connect with Pro Coro Canada, which has young composers, singers and conductors working with the professional choir several times over the season.

Michael completed the post-graduate program for Professional Choir Conducting at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm and holds degrees in voice, conducting and music education from the University in Basel. In 2018 he was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Music (Hon DMus) by Scotland's King's College, University of Aberdeen, and in 2020 received an Award from the Edmonton Artists' Trust Fund, recognizing his work as choral leader in Edmonton.



GERRY HÉBERT Saxophone

Born and raised in Alberta, Gerry Hébert has worked as a professional musician for more than 25 years and has enjoyed a busy playing career that included being a founding member of The Swinging Bovines, a professional touring saxophone quartet that played over 500 concerts internationally. His performance credits include many appearances with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, multiple professional theatre productions, the Calgary Jazz Orchestra and his own Gerry Hébert Quartet which has released three CD recordings.

Hébert was the artistic director of destination central for jazz in Calgary, the Beat Niq Jazz & Social Club, for 12 years. He was a founder and director of the Calgary Youth Jazz Orchestra, and served 2 terms as president of the Calgary Musicians Association. Currently he is Vice President and event coordinator for JazzYYC, Calgary's Jazz Collaborative. He studied music in Paris, the Banff Centre for the Arts, Grande Prairie Regional College and the University of Calgary, where he received his Bachelor of Music with a major in secondary education in 1990.



CHRIS SANTOS Percussion

Chris Santos received his Bachelor of Music in percussion performance in 2018 under Dr. Rod Squance at the University of Calgary's School of Creative and Performing Arts. He has performed with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Calgary Opera, and Red Deer Symphony, and is currently principal timpanist with the Rocky Mountain Symphony Orchestra. He has performed with other professional and community groups in Alberta and beyond including the Symphony of the Kootenays, Cowtown Opera, Bow Valley Chorus, University of Calgary String Quartet, and Calgary Wind Symphony.

Chris has worked with the clinic programs at the Mount Royal Conservatory, University of Calgary, and Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. He has coached many school percussion ensembles in the city and will be completing his education degree in Spring 2023.

Artist

DALE KIRSCHENMAN



Western Canadian Landscapes
www.dalekirschenman.com

LET THE PEOPLE SING! PROGRAM

AT THE RIVER (Hymn Tune)

adapted by Aaron Copland • arr. R. Wilding-White

DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY

Traditional • arr. Sheldon Curry

MEADOWLARKS

Laura Hawley

THE IMAGINARY GARDEN

Marie-Claire Saindon

LE PONT MIRABEAU

Lionel Daunais

DIRAIT-ON

Morten Lauridsen

AN ALLELUIA SUPER-ROUND

William Albright

Gerry Hébert, *Saxophone*

– INTERMISSION –

15 Minutes

CANTIQUE de JEAN RACINE, OP. 11

Gabriel Fauré

HOW GOOD WILL IT FEEL?

Allan Gilliland

A PRAYER TO BRING YOU HOME

John Estacio

MOON RIVER

Henry Mancini • arr. Ed Lojeski

TURN THE WORLD AROUND

Harry Belafonte • arr. Larry Farrow

Chris Santos, *Percussion*

A STEPHEN FOSTER MEDLEY

arr. Jon Washburn

Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair • Camptown Races •

• My Old Kentucky Home • Beautiful Dreamer •

• Oh! Susanna!

(Program Subject to Change)

Available at The Collectors Gallery
1332 9 Avenue SE, Calgary | 403.245.8300

AT THE RIVER (Hymn Tune)

adapted by Aaron Copland • arr. R. Wilding-White

A gentle and much-loved hymn dating from 1865 by the Reverend Robert Lowry, adapted and arranged by influential American composer Aaron Copland [1900-1990] who was deemed the 'Dean of Composers' during his lifetime. It begins with a simple accompaniment which builds in strength and intensity throughout.

*Shall we gather by the river,
Where bright angels' feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God.*

*Yes, we'll gather by the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river
That flows by the throne of God.*

*Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.*

DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY

Traditional • arr. Sheldon Curry

An Appalachian-flavored gospel song arranged by native Texan Sheldon Curry. It was featured in a recent Coen Brothers film "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"

*As I went down to the river to pray,
Studyin' about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown.
Good Lord, show be the way.*

*As I went down to the river to pray,
Studyin' about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown.
Good Lord, show me the way.*

*O sisters let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
O sisters, let's go down, down to the river to pray.*

*O brothers let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
Come on brothers let's go down, down to the river to pray.*

MEADOWLARKS

Laura Hawley

A 2018 composition by prolific Edmonton composer Laura Hawley on a poem by early 20th century American poet Sara Teasdale. It features a piano accompaniment which ranges from very delicate to impassioned, some challenging subtleties for the choir, and (in the words of the composer) "imitates the song of the meadowlark in places, which I didn't discover was the case until after I had actually composed the music."

*In the silver light after a storm
Under dripping boughs of bright new green,
I take the low path to hear the meadowlarks
Alone and high-hearted as a queen.*

*What have I to fear in life or death
Who have known three things: the kiss in the night,
The white flying joy when a song is born,
And the meadowlarks whistling in the silver light.*

THE IMAGINARY GARDEN

Marie-Claire Saindon

This 2018 setting by Franco-Ontarian choral and film composer Marie-Claire Saindon is a paean to hope and steadfastness. A victim of the Islamic Revolution, the poet, Mahvash Sabet, a Bahá'í, is a prisoner of conscience currently serving an unjust 20-year sentence in Iran. This heart-rendering poem smuggled out of her prison invokes the power of her words despite the bars holding her back.

*There once was a woman
green as the spring,
who planted her hands in a garden.
And another woman,
red as her heart
who plucked light from the bars of a prison.
And now here I am
with my own patch of soil,
growing a garden
in this small cell
with poppies full of love for each pane.*

*You need just one flower
to open the windows of sight.
A single verse
is quite enough
to illumine the eyes with light.*

*So I'll tie my bags to the foot of the breeze
and soar high up to the top of the trees
in my garden that grows inside.*

*And I'll spread wings to reach you
and soar high to teach you
how windows can open wide.*

*You don't need much:
one poppy is all
it takes to open to love.
One verse is sufficient
to fill the eyes
with the shining beams from above.*

LE PONT MIRABEAU

Lionel Daunais

A setting by Montréal composer Lionel Daunais [1902-1982] of an extract from French poet Guillaume Apollinaire's influential collection *Alcools*. Though the poet was in the vanguard of early 20th century. Symbolist and Surrealist movements, the poem here is expressive and emotionally direct, referencing the end of a relationship by evoking an image of the passage of time as water flowing under a bridge.

*Under the Pont Mirabeau the Seine
Flows with our loves
Must I recall again?
Joy always used to follow after pain*

*Let the night come: strike the hour
The days go past while I stand here*

*Hands holding hands let us stay face to face
While under this
Bridge our arms make slow race
Long looks in a tired wave at a wave's pace*

*Let the night come: strike the hour
The days go past while I stand here*

*Love runs away like running water flows
Love flows away
But oh how slow life goes
How violent hope is nobody knows*

*Let the night come: strike the hour
The days go past while I stand here*

*The days pass and the weeks pass but in vain
Neither time past
Nor love comes back again
Under the Pont Mirabeau flows the Seine*

*Let the night come: strike the hour
The days go past but I stay here.*

DIRAIT-ON (SO THEY SAY)

Morten Lauridsen

A setting of a poem by Austrian Rainer Maria Rilke [1875-1926], and the fifth and last piece of a choral cycle *Les Chansons des Roses* by contemporary American choral master Morten Lauridsen. It is structured much as a folksong, weaving together two appealing melodic ideas in contemplating the perfection of a rose.

*Abandon surrounding abandon,
tenderness touching tenderness...
Your oneness endlessly
caresses itself, so they say;*

*self-caressing
through its own clear reflection.
Thus you invent the theme
of Narcissus fulfilled.*

AN ALLELUIA SUPER-ROUND

William Albright

American composer William Albright's composition employs twenty-three brief musical fragments sung freely and independently by the singers in the choir, each in their own time and with their own phrasing, building in range and dynamic and then gradually subsiding, all of it on the single word: *Alleluia*.

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for more information.



Calgary Bach Choir

Baroque & Beyond

Terry Edwards, Artistic Director
2022-2023 //
35th Anniversary Season



Music of the Bach Family

SUNDAY 2 APRIL 2023
3 PM

Knox United Church, 506 – 4 Street SW

Jonquil Koddo, soprano

Calgary Bach Choir and
Chamber Orchestra
Terry Edwards, conductor

PROGRAM

J.S. Bach
Ich lasse dich nicht

J.E. Bach
Unser Wandel ist im Himmel

C.P.E. Bach
Symphony in E Flat Major, Wq 179

J.C. Bach
Introit and Kyrie from the Requiem

F. J. Haydn
Little Organ Solo Mass

W.A. Mozart
Regina coeli, KV 127

Program subject to change

TICKETS

Adults—\$25
Seniors—\$20
Students—Free

Tickets available online at
BrownPaperTickets.com
and at the door—cash and
credit cards accepted.

calgarybachsociety.com CalgaryBachSociety @CalBachchoir



CANTIQUE de JEAN RACINE, Op. 11

Gabriel Fauré

An early student work by French composer, Gabriel Fauré [1845-1924] who is best known for his beautiful setting of the *Requiem* and a famous orchestral Pavane. The text is by Jean Racine, a noted 17th century poet and playwright.

*O Word, worthy of the Most High,
our sole hope, eternal day of earth and the heavens,
We break the silence of the peaceful night.
Divine Savior, cast Thine eyes upon us!*

*Shed the light of Thy mighty grace upon us.
Let all Hell flee at the sound of Thy voice.*

*Dispel the slumber of a languishing soul
that leads it to the forgetting of Thy laws!*

*O Christ, be favorable unto this faithful people
now gathered to bless Thee.
Receive these hymns it offers unto Thine immortal glory
and may it return fulfilled by Thy gifts.*

HOW GOOD WILL IT FEEL?

Allan Gilliland

A poem originally titled 'Like Honey' by Jemma Hicken and set by Edmonton composer Allan Gilliland is inspired by the sense of suspension of time we have all felt during the recent pandemic. Gilliland wanted it to be gentle, melodic, almost hymn-like, as he felt strongly we need as much peace and beauty during extremely trying times. It is the first of two 'COVID-era' works on this program out of a total of eight, titled Canadian Voices, which Michael Zaugg commissioned for performance by his ensemble Pro Coro in 2020.

*How good will it feel when time gusts around us once again.
To listen to the wind
To turn our stiff selves inside out
And notice where we bend.
How good will it feel when I am right side up and outside in
When abstract
hardens to concrete
And I still scrape my knees
When the stillness feels like respite
And the quiet tastes like honey*

*By then, we will have noticed the small things we love
We will have picked up the smoothest pebbles
From the quiet beach down the road, and stuffed them
in our pockets.
We'll find them later on an airplane
We'll find them later on a lunch break.*

A PRAYER TO BRING YOU HOME

John Estacio

A setting of Edmonton Poet Laureate Alice Major's poem of the same title and another of the Canadian Voices commissions initiated by Michael Zaugg. John Estacio was given her book of collected poetry "Standard Candles" on the day they both received the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Arts Award in 2017. He describes it as a heartfelt tribute for a mother.

*Come home.
The street is lined with green ash.
You know these trees, now turning bronze.
Come home.
You know the songs
sung in the cracked voice of this sidewalk.
Come home
past the drying stalks
of morning, mourning, sigh and clutter.
Come home
through the litter
of autumn leaving us again.*

*Come home.
I am watching for you
from the window, half empty glass.
Come home
up the path
you have always known.
Come home.
Your suitcase is heavy as a headstone,
light as a purseful of leaves.
Come home.
It is warm.
Come in my arms.*

MOON RIVER

Henry Mancini • arr. Ed Lojeski

With lyrics by Johnny Mercer it was featured in the 1961 film *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, winning the Academy Award that year. It was sung by Audrey Hepburn and is reminiscent of the lyricist's youth in the southern U.S., its waterways, and his carefree childhood.

*Moon River, wider than a mile;
I'm crossin' you in style some day.
Old dream maker, you heart breaker,
wherever you're goin',
I'm goin' your way.*

*Two drifters, off to see the world.
There's such a lot of world to see.
We're after the same rainbow's end,
waitin' 'round the bend,
my huckleberry friend,
Moon River and me.*

TURN THE WORLD AROUND

Harry Belafonte • arr. Larry Farrow

A 1975 song performed and co-written by African American musician, social justice activist, and humanitarian Harry Belafonte with lyrics by Robert Freeman. It captures the Calypso feeling of Caribbean music stylings Belafonte popularized in the 1950s.

*We come from the fire,
Livin' in the fire,
Go back to the fire,
Turn the world around.*

*We come from the mountain,
Livin' in the mountain,
Go back to the mountain,
Turn the world around.
Oh, oh so is life.*

*Do you know who I am?
Do I know who you are?*

*See we one another clearly.
Do we know who we are?
Oh, oh so is life,
A ba tee wah (ha) so is life.*

*Water make the river,
River wash the mountain,
Fire make the sunlight,
Turn the world around.*

*Heart is of the river,
Body is of the mountain,
Spirit is the sunlight,
Turn the world around.*

A STEPHEN FOSTER MEDLEY

arr. Jon Washburn

A suite of beloved songs by the 19th c. composer who was known as America's Schubert. The underlying emotion of these songs is nostalgia, a pervasive longing for things lost. Jon Washburn's arrangement was originally composed for the Vancouver Chamber Choir which he led for over five decades and was also featured on the 2019 *Let the People Sing!* celebration hosted by The Festival Chorus.

THANK YOU FOR

Singing

WITH US!

THE FESTIVAL CHORUS





THE FESTIVAL CHORUS

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The Festival Chorus thanks each of the following for making music with us!

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Adagio \$10 - \$199 (con't)

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^In Remembrance of

Bill Burns
Delores, Eugene, Helena and Henry
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^In Honor of

Alfred Kraus
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