

# Music TO STIR THE Soul



**EXULTATE**  
CHAMBER SINGERS

MARK RAMSAY | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Friday, October 17, 2025  
Calvin Presbyterian Church, Toronto

## A note from our Artistic Director

Welcome to the kick-off of our 44th concert season! As you've come to expect from us, tonight's program showcases a wide variety of music. Each piece reflects two interconnected themes: the power of music to stir the soul and also the incredible and diverse beauty of the natural world around us.

The centerpiece of the program is an exciting new work by composer, performer, and educator Majel Connery. In Majel's words, "*The Rivers Are Our Brothers* is a song cycle on ecological responsibility and each song in the cycle takes on a first-person view of nature, ascribing human qualities and feelings to elements of the landscape". It premiered as a trio for voice, violin, and bassoon and was recently arranged for the award-winning vocal ensemble Chanticleer. Tonight marks one of the first performances of the complete cycle in its newest arrangement for SATB choir.

Please join us in December as we celebrate the season with a return of our popular Holiday Cheer concert. You can catch us in February in a free lunchtime concert at Roy Thomson Hall, and we will end the season with a bang, showcasing choral hits from Hollywood and Broadway.

Thank you for your continued support! It means the world to us!

Mark Ramsay  
Artistic Director and Conductor

## Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the land we perform on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples, and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13, signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties, signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

Exultate Chamber Singers is committed to deepening our understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing and being and the role we can play in our collective call for reconciliation. We invite you to pause and reflect on your relationship with these lands and your path towards reconciliation.

# Music TO STIR THE Soul



okâwîmâw askîy (Mother Earth)

Sherryl Sewepagaham 🍁

Where Waters Meet (mvt. V)

Carmen Braden 🍁

Mag die Bome Groen Bly (May the Trees Stay Green)

Franco Prinsloo & Netanja Brink

The Rivers Are Our Brothers

Majel Connery

1. I Am The Air
2. I Am a Cloud
3. I Am a Mountain
4. I Am Snow
5. I Am a Rock
6. I Am a Tree
7. I Am a River

arr. Ben Murphy

Come to the Woods

Jake Runestad

North

*Susan Bennett and Daniel Meeks, soloists*

Sleeping at Last

arr. George Chung 🍁



SCAN FOR TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

# EXULTATE

## CHAMBER SINGERS

**Mark Ramsay**, *Artistic Director and Conductor*

**Mira Jung**, *Pianist*

### About our choir

Exultate Chamber Singers is an adult, mixed-voice chamber choir located in the heart of downtown Toronto. The ensemble is enriched not only by the strong musicianship of its members but also by their varied ages, cultural backgrounds, and academic and professional credentials. Together they form a passionate, committed ensemble with a wide-ranging repertoire.

The choir is a three-time winner of the Healey Willan Grand Prize in the CBC National Radio Competition and was awarded first place in the chamber choir category of Choral Canada's most recent National Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs.

In addition to presenting its annual concert series, Exultate has made regular appearances around Ontario, toured in Canada, collaborated with dozens of artists, and enjoyed airplay on CBC Radio. Exultate recently released its sixth album, *At First Light*, showcasing new Canadian choral music commissioned by the choir in recent years.

### Singers

Susan Bennett  
Rachel Bogue  
Julia Brotto  
Scott Brubacher\*  
Elaine Choi  
Andy Foster  
Mary Gillmeister  
Briony Glassco  
June Higgins  
Jessalyn Hynds  
Lynn Janes  
Manishya Jayasundera\*  
Brock Jenken  
Bina John  
Jim King  
Patrick Lam  
Shanda Lee  
Kelly Lin  
Jason Locke

Adam MacNeil  
Hannah Martin  
Daniel Meeks  
Anna Mersov  
Lindsay Naft  
Vyllana Nguyen  
Henry Paterson+  
Dawn Pear  
Lizzy Perkins  
Brian Prinzen  
Jeffrey Reynolds  
Michael Rowland\*  
Gareth Simpson  
Duncan Stuart  
Mishaal Surti  
Steven Webb  
Alan Wiseman\*  
Tracy Wong

\* *on leave*

+ *substitute singer*





**Mark Ramsay**

Artistic Director and Conductor

Dr. Mark Ramsay is Coordinator of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor in Music Education at Western University's Don Wright Faculty of Music. He teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and is the conductor of Western University Singers. He is also the Artistic Director and Conductor of Toronto's award-winning Exultate Chamber Singers.

Mark is a strong advocate for music education and community music making. He is currently a board member of Sirens Choral Association and a former co-chair of Podium 2022. Mark also served on the board of Choirs Ontario and is a past editor of their publication Dynamic. He is frequently invited to appear as a guest conductor and clinician for choirs, community festivals, and conferences, and he has worked as an adjudicator at the local, provincial, and national levels including the National Finals of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals. Mark has worked as a high school music teacher, provincial curriculum specialist, church music leader, and community choir director.



**Mira Jung**

Pianist

Mira's first memory of music making is when she was five years old, playing the Flea Waltz on her cousin's piano. At the age of ten, she became an accompanist for her music classes at school and for weekly masses at a local church. Her love of music grew as she learned to play other instruments, which led her to earn a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Toronto. Mira finds playing for and singing with Exultate Chamber Singers not only joyful, but also very helpful in her personal musical growth.

# Thank you to our donors!

We are grateful for your tremendous support. It makes possible all the important work that we do.

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Dr. Nick Gaudet & Peter Kemp  
June & Russell Higgins  
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Vivian Moens & Matt O’Gorman  
Brian Prinzen  
Mark Ramsay  
Gareth Simpson & Danielle Bourgon

## **CHAMPIONS (\$500-\$999)**

Anonymous (1)  
Rachel Bogues  
Elaine Choi  
Toby Condliffe  
Andy Foster  
Bryn Gray  
Jessalyn Hynds  
Bina John  
Kate Kudelka  
Jeannette Moens in memory of Wil Moens Lori Nemoy  
Bryant Ramdoo & Ashley Houlden Jeff Reynolds  
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John Simcoe  
Graham Thomson

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Kevin Gaudet  
David Gray  
Kelsey Grieve  
Lynn & Ken Janes  
Mira Jung  
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Shirley Morriss  
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Vyllana Nguyen  
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Sharyn Salsberg-Ezrin  
John Snelgrove  
Mishaal Surti  
Judy Todd  
Katherine Vice & Bill Clarke  
Maxwell Watson  
Firth Whitwam & Julie Makepeace  
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Tracy Wong  
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In honour of Casey Rogers  
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# Holiday *Cheer!*

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CHAMBER SINGERS

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Friday, December 19, 2025  
Calvin Presbyterian Church, Toronto



SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS