



EXULTATE
CHAMBER SINGERS
MARK RAMSAY | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Holiday *Cheer!*

Friday, December 20, 2024
Calvin Presbyterian Church, Toronto

Brianna Levesque and Andrew Balfour, *featured composers*
Ania Suri, *apprentice conductor*

● A note from our Artistic Director

Welcome! The holiday season is here, and we are excited to be sharing this evening with you.

There are many things that make this time of year special. The darker days begin to be brightened by festive lights. Social events and gatherings are at their yearly peak. Food and drink are shared with loved ones. AND there's familiar music that's been waiting all year long to return to the top of your playlist.

Tonight's program shares the joy and fun of the holiday season with familiar tunes and a few new gems added to the mix. We hope there's a melody that sparks a special memory and feeling of joy for you, and most importantly, we hope we help you escape your daily whirl and enjoy being immersed in the sound of live choral singing.

Thanks again for joining us. Wishing you and yours the happiest of holidays, and may the year ahead bring tremendous comfort and joy!

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 to reflect on your relationship with these lands and your path towards reconciliation.

Holiday *Cheer!*

O Christmas Tree <i>Hannah Martin, soloist</i>	trad. German folk song, arr. Kirby Shaw
The Most Wonderful Time of the Year	Pola and Wyle, arr. Jerry Rubino
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear	Richard Storrs Willis, arr. Miles Ramsay 🍁
Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening	Stephanie Martin 🍁
Ding Dong! Merrily on High <i>Adam MacNeil, organist</i>	trad. French dance tune, arr. David Willcocks
Deck the Halls	trad. Welsh carol, arr. Miles Ramsay 🍁
Wonder (<i>world premiere</i>)	Brianna Levesque 🍁
Winter Wonderland	Felix Bernard, arr. Greg Jasperse
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas <i>Jeffrey Reynolds and Jessalyn Hynds, soloists</i>	Martin and Blane, arr. John McMillan 🍁
River <i>Jessalyn Hynds, soloist</i>	Joni Mitchell 🍁 , arr. Joel Tranquilla 🍁
Season of Light	Jacob Narverud
Pipon (<i>world premiere</i>)	Andrew Balfour 🍁
Welcome Christmas	Albert Hague, arr. Andy Beck
Somewhere in My Memory	John Williams, arr. Audrey Snyder
I'll Be Home for Christmas <i>Duncan Stuart, soloist</i>	Gannon and Kent, arr. Paul Langford
Auld Lang Syne <i>Andy Foster, soloist</i>	trad. Scottish folk song, arr. Desmond Earley

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EXULTATE

CHAMBER SINGERS

Mark Ramsay, *Artistic Director and Conductor*

Mira Jung, *Pianist*

Ania Suri, *Apprentice Conductor*

● 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

Dan Bevan-Baker
Rachel Bogues*
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
Dawn Pear
Lizzy Perkins
Brian Prinzen
Jeffrey Reynolds
Michael Rowland
Gareth Simpson
Duncan Stuart
Mishaal Surti
Alan Wiseman*

** on leave*

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ANDREW BALFOUR,
featured composer

Of Cree descent, Andrew Balfour is an innovative composer/conductor/singer/sound designer with a large body of choral, instrumental, electro-acoustic and orchestral works. Andrew's works have been performed and/or broadcast locally, nationally, and internationally. He has been commissioned by the Winnipeg, Regina, and Toronto Symphony Orchestras, Ensemble Caprice, Groundswell, the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra, the Winnipeg Singers, the Kingston Chamber Choir, Roomful of Teeth, Tafelmusik, and Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, among others.

Andrew is also the founder and Artistic Director of the innovative vocal group Dead of Winter (formerly Camerata Nova), now in its 25th year of offering a concert series in Winnipeg. With Dead of Winter, Andrew specializes in creating "concept concerts," many with Indigenous subject matter (Wa Wa Tey Wak [Northern Lights], Medieval Inuit, Fallen). These innovative offerings explore a theme through an eclectic array of music, including new works, arrangements and inter-genre and interdisciplinary collaborations. In 2017, he was awarded a Gold Medal by the Senate of Canada for his contribution to Canada's Indigenous and music communities.



BRIANNA LEVESQUE,
featured composer

As a vocalist, flautist, accompanist, composer, and educator, Brianna Levesque has been extensively involved in the music community of Regina, Saskatchewan. Her musical journey began at the age of four with piano, flute, and voice, and at the age of ten, Brianna realized that she had a special interest in composition. As an emerging composer, Brianna has written works primarily for choir, but also writes for orchestra, piano, and solo voice. Brianna had the privilege of hearing her piece, *Earth: Part Two* premiered by the Exultate Chamber Singers in May 2023. Her most recent work, *Above the Clouds*, commissioned by the The University of Regina Choirs, was performed in April 2024.

Brianna holds an ARCT (Associate of The Royal Conservatory, Toronto) Diploma in Voice Performance, a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, as well as another Bachelor of Music Degree with a focus in Comprehensive Studies from the University of Regina. Currently, Brianna is completing her Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting under the guidance of Dr. Melissa Morgan. During the day, Brianna has found one of her passions with teaching music at Winston Knoll Collegiate High School in Regina.



ANIA SURI,
apprentice conductor

Ania is an undergraduate student at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music studying Voice. Ania began her musical journey as a chorister in the Toronto Children's Chorus at the age of five and graduated as a Head Chorister and Choral Scholar at seventeen. In 2023 she sang in the Ontario Youth Choir. Ania currently sings in the University of Toronto's MacMillan Singers led by Dr. Jamie Hillman and is the alto section leader at Islington United Church. This summer, Ania sang as Canada's alto member of the World Youth Choir. As a conductor, Ania recently participated in the Eastman School of Music Summer Choral Conducting Seminar under the direction of Dr. William Weinert and is in her second year as the Mississauga Children's Choir Apprentice Conductor. As a lifelong chorister and aspiring choral conductor, Ania is delighted to be the Exultate Chamber Singers Apprentice Conductor!

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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Toby Condliffe
Andy Foster
Bryn Gray
Jessalyn Hynds
Bina John
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Jeannette Moens *in memory of Wil Moens*
Lori Nemoy
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VOICES HIGH & LOW

Friday, April 25, 8:00 p.m.

Pre-concert chat at 7:15 p.m.

A unique concert for Exultate! The SATB choir divides to perform music written specifically for SA and TB voices. The cornerstone of the program is Randall Thompson's complete *Frostiana*. We also feature the world premieres of new works by Alice Ping Yee Ho and Sherry! Sewepagaham.

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Contact us: info@exultate.net

With gratitude, we acknowledge the important, generous, and ongoing contributions of:



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