

*Exultate*  
CHAMBER SINGERS

MARK RAMSAY | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

# A WINTER'S NIGHT

Friday, December 16, 2022

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Calvin Presbyterian Church  
26 Delisle Avenue, Toronto

Special guests:  
Emily Green, commissioned composer  
Mac VanDuzer, double bass



Exultate Chamber Singers

[WWW.EXULTATE.NET](http://WWW.EXULTATE.NET)



# CHOIR

**Mark Ramsay, Artistic Director**  
**Mira Jung, piano**

Sami Anguaya, tenor  
Susan Bennett, alto  
Rachel Bogues, soprano\*  
Matthew Boutda, tenor  
Julia Brotto, soprano  
Scott Brubacher, bass  
Elaine Choi, alto  
Suzanne Coultres, soprano  
Andy Foster, tenor  
Julia Frodyma, soprano  
Mary Gillmeister, alto  
Nathan Gritter, tenor

June Higgins, soprano  
Elliot Hume, bass  
Jessalyn Hynds, alto  
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Bina John, alto  
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Jim King, bass  
Caleb Jonker, bass  
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Lachlan Mason, bass

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Anna-Maria Mersov, alto\*  
Vivian Moens, soprano  
Lindsay Naft, alto  
Katharine Petkovski, alto\*  
Brian Prinzen, bass  
Jeff Reynolds, bass  
Michael Rowland, tenor  
Duncan Stuart, tenor  
Mishaal Surti, tenor  
Alan Wiseman, bass  
Eric Yang, bass

\* On leave

Scan here  
to read our  
chorister bios



Founded in 1981, 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 most recently awarded first place in the chamber choir category of Choral Canada's 2019 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, released five albums, and enjoyed airplay on CBC Radio. Exultate is currently producing its sixth album, showcasing new Canadian choral music commissioned by the choir in recent years.

# PROGRAMME

The cold demands a silence

Music: Stephen Chatman 

Text: Tara Wohlberg 

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening  
from *A Frost Sequence*

Music: Stephanie Martin 

Text: Robert Frost

Winter Proverbs

Music: Frances Farrell 

Proverb I - Prologue: The Pine in Winter (Chinese)

Proverb II - Winter's Dance (English)

Proverb III - Cold Comfort (German)

Proverb IV - How Long the Winter (compilation)

Snowfall, Snowmelt <sup>★</sup>

Music: Emily Green 

Soloist: Julia Brotto

Text: Clayton Trumbull

Double Bass: Mac VanDuzer

Song for a Winter's Night

Music & Text: Gordon Lightfoot 

Soloist: Andy Foster

Arrangement: Jacob Gramit 

Silence, Frost, & Snow

Music: Mark Sirett 

1. The Frost That Stings

Text: Archibald Lampman 

2. In Snow Time

Text: Anonymous

Soloist: Lachlan Mason

3. Before the Snow

Text: Bliss Carman 

Get Me Through December

Music & Text: Gordie Sampson & Fred Lavery 

Soloist: Jessalyn Hynds

Arrangement: Jennifer McMillan 

A Winter Bluejay

Music: Trent Worthington 

Text: Sara Teasdale

Solstice Carol

Music & Text: Kim Baryluk 

Arrangement: Scott Reimer 

<sup>★</sup>World Premiere

Commissioned by Exultate Chamber Singers, 2022

# 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.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Good evening and welcome!

Whether you are joining us for the first time or haven't missed an Exultate concert in years, we hope tonight's concert provides a bit of an escape and a boost of inspiration and joy!

Our Canadian winters are never boring. The variety of imagery and experiences we pack into one season is truly remarkable. The music on tonight's concert will attempt to showcase this mix: vivid bluejays and sparkling white blankets of snow, dark nights and the glow from fireplaces, time to reflect on the seasons past and the spring ahead.

Tonight also marks the world premiere of a new work by Toronto composer, Emily Green. Exultate has been committed to commissioning new music by Canadian composers and we are thrilled to be showcasing Emily's work. Commissions like this one are the direct result of your generous donations and support. Thank you for being an invaluable part of our organization—we truly wouldn't be here tonight without you!



Mark Ramsay, Artistic Director



## BIOS

*Mark Ramsay*

mark@exultate.net

Mark Ramsay is Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Choral Activities at the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University. Prior to his appointment at Western University, Dr. Ramsay was Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Music. He frequently appears as a guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician.



Mark holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in choral conducting from U of T where he was a student of Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt. His doctoral thesis focused on Canadian choral repertoire written specifically for tenor/bass voices. In addition, he holds a Master of Music from U of T and a Bachelor of Music Education from University of Prince Edward Island.

*Emily Green*

[www.emilygreenmusic.com](http://www.emilygreenmusic.com)



Composer Emily Green was born in Ottawa, Ontario. She is currently completing a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Toronto specializing in voice and composition, and her choral music has already been published by several organizations. She has had works premiered and commissioned by the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir, the Capital Chamber Choir, the Ottawa Children's Choir, and Concreamus Chamber Choir.

Emily has also worked as a teacher and mentor with many musical organizations including the Perth Academy for Musical Theatre, the Ottawa Children's Choir (which she also sang in as a child), and OrKidstra, an Ottawa-based program which provides free music lessons to children and youth from low-income families. She currently works as a singing teacher at Stagecoach Schools.

*Mac VanDuzer*

Mac VanDuzer grew up in Oakville, active in music (Halton Youth Symphony, High Rendition Jazz) and sports. He entered U of T's Faculty of Music, Performance Double Bass, and was also recruited to play Varsity Football; Music took precedence when scheduling both proved impossible. He played with the National Youth Orchestra for three summers, touring Canada, and Europe.

Mac did his Masters in Orchestral Double Bass at the Manhattan School of Music. He graduated into Covid in spring 2020, and returned to U of T (Artists Diploma) in 2021-2022. He is currently Principal Bass with the Guelph Symphony, and is busy as an ensemble player and for recordings.

# TEXTS

## The cold demands a silence

Music: Stephen Chatman

Text: Tara Wohlberg

The cold demands a silence  
of the land, a looking inward  
the undressed, trembling aspens  
barren lines, memories  
of lush shade and long days  
replaced with the privacy of winter

the snow-kissed winds blow  
and blow, the cold a purity  
a taste of the passing of time  
these drawn-out days  
of night on night  
gold crescent moon, night

the fireweed flowers nap below  
underneath a marquee of snow  
the white snow on snow  
in a halo of stars

the cold demands a silence  
dark on dark  
the winter dances  
white on white on white

## A Frost Sequence

### III. Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Music: Stephanie Martin

Text: Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

## Winter Proverbs

Music: Frances Farrell

Proverb I (Chinese)

The pine stays green in winter; wisdom is hardship.

Proverb II (English)

They who sing in summer, must dance in winter.

Proverb III (German)

Those who don't pick roses in the summer won't pick them in winter either.

Proverb IV (compilation)

O wind, if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind? (Percy Bysshe Shelly, "Ode to the West Wind")

No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow. (Guinean)

The snow it melts the soonest when the winds begin to sing. (Irish)

## Snowfall, Snowmelt

Music: Emily Green

Text: Clayton Trumbull

You first smiled at me in summertime,  
And brushed my hand in fall,  
My face lit up in the winter  
When I shared with you my shawl.  
There was nothing like the snowflakes  
That your eyelashes would catch,  
As they float down from high heaven,

I do think of you as heaven,  
But some candles simply do not need a match.  
In the spring I often ponder  
How the love in winter felt  
I see you in sprouting flowers  
And myself in the snowmelt.

## Song for a Winter's Night

Music & Text: Gordon Lightfoot

Arrangement: Jacob Gramit

The lamp is burnin' low upon my table top  
The snow is softly falling  
The air is still in the silence of my room  
I hear your voice softly calling

If I could only have you near  
To breathe a sigh or two  
I would be happy just to hold the hands I love  
On this winter night with you

The smoke is rising in the shadows overhead  
My glass is almost empty  
I read again between the lines upon the page  
The words of love you sent me

If I could know within my heart  
That you were lonely too  
I would be happy just to hold the hands I love  
On this winter night with you

The fire is dying now, my lamp is growing dim  
The shades of night are lifting  
The morning light steals across my window pane  
Where webs of snow are drifting

If I could only have you near  
To breathe a sigh or two  
I would be happy just to hold the hands I love  
And to be once again with with you  
To be once again with you

## Silence, Frost, & Snow

Music: Mark Sirett

### 1. The Frost that Stings

Text: Archibald Lampman

The frost that stings like fire upon my cheek,  
The loneliness of this forsaken ground,  
The long white drift upon whose powdered peak  
I sit in the great silence as one bound;

The rippled sheet of snow where the wind blew  
Across the open fields for miles ahead;  
The far-off city towered and roofed in blue  
A tender line upon the western red;

The stars that singly, then in flocks appear,  
Like jets of silver from the violet dome,  
So wonderful, so many and so near,  
And then the golden moon to light me home—

The crunching snowshoes and the stinging air,  
And silence, frost, and beauty everywhere.



## 2. In Snow Time

Text: Anonymous

I have seen things that charmed the heart to rest:  
Faint moonlight on the face of a sleeping child,  
Filling up the soul to dream of what may be,

I have seen things;  
But here is a peace deeper than dreams of night,  
of wonder, mystery and light,

The snow is still, the snow is deep  
yet shines newborn hope

Here is the peace which longed for day and night,  
Before the mighty wind with its wild, wild pow'r  
Before our feet had trampled the great world

Here is peace

## 3. Before the Snow

Text: Bliss Carman

Now soon, ah, very soon, I know  
The trumpets of the north will blow,  
And the great winds will come to bring  
The pale wild riders of the snow.

Darkening the sun with level flight,  
At arrowy speed, they will alight,  
Unnumbered as the desert sands,  
To bivouac on the edge of night.

Then I, within their somber ring,  
Shall hear a voice that seems to sing,  
Deep, deep within my tranquil heart,  
The valiant prophecy of spring.



## Get Me Through December

Music & Text: Gordie Sampson & Fred Lavery

Arrangement: Jennifer McMillan

How pale is the sky that brings forth the rain  
As the changing of seasons prepares me again  
For the long bitter nights and the wild winter's day  
My heart has grown cold my love stored away  
My heart has grown cold my love stored away

I've been to the mountain left my tracks in the snow  
Where souls have been lost and the walking  
wounded go  
I've taken the pain no girl should endure  
But faith can move mountains of that I am sure  
Faith can move mountains of that I am sure

Just get me through December  
A promise I'll remember  
Get me through December  
So I can start again

No divine purpose brings freedom from sin  
And peace is a gift that must come from within  
I've looked for the love that will bring me to rest  
Feeding this hunger beating strong in my chest





## A Winter Bluejay

Music: Trent Worthington

Text: Sarah Teasdale

Crisply the bright snow whispered,  
Crunching beneath our feet;  
Behind us as we walked along the parkway,  
Our shadows danced,  
Fantastic shapes in vivid blue.  
Across the lake the skaters  
Flew to and fro,  
With sharp turns weaving  
A frail invisible net.  
In ecstasy the earth  
Drank the silver sunlight;  
In ecstasy the skaters  
Drank the wine of speed;  
In ecstasy we laughed  
Drinking the wine of love.

Had not the music of our joy  
Sounded its highest note?  
But no,  
For suddenly, with lifted eyes you said,  
"Oh look!"  
There, on the black bough of a snow flecked maple,  
Fearless and gay as our love,  
A bluejay cocked his crest!  
Oh who can tell the range of joy  
Or set the bounds of beauty?

## Solstice Carol

Music & Text: Kim Baryluk

Arrangement: Scott Reimer

A fire is burning  
The long night draws near  
All who need comfort  
Are welcome by here

We'll dance 'neath the stars  
And toast the past year  
For the spirit of solstice  
Is still living here

We'll count all our blessings  
While the Mother lays down  
With snow as her blanket  
Covering the ground

Thanks to the Mother  
For the life that she brings  
She'll waken to warm us  
Again in the spring

The poor and the hungry  
The sick and the lost  
These are our children  
No matter the cost

Come by the fire  
The harvest to share  
For the spirit of solstice  
Is still living here

The fire is burning  
The long night draws near  
All who need comfort  
Are welcome by here

We'll dance 'neath the stars  
And toast the past year  
For the spirit of solstice  
Is still living here  
For the spirit of solstice  
Is still living here

*At First Light*

Last spring we were in the Glenn Gould Studio recording works by Canadian composers, all commissioned by Exultate in recent years. Now we've moved into post-production.

Join our e-newsletter list for more information on the album, to be launched in March 2023!



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*for your support!*

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## Upcoming Exultate concerts:

# WATER FORMS

Immersion

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023, 8:00 P.M.

Join us as we explore our intimate connection to water in its many forms. The program includes music from a variety of time periods plus three immersive works by contemporary Canadian composers Katerina Gimon, Carmen Braden, and Bruce Sled.

# TO THE FUTURE

Inspired by Youth

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023, 8:00 P.M.

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

The final concert of the season celebrates the future of choral music. We'll shine the spotlight on young composers in collaboration with Concreamus under the direction of Kai Leung. Come discover new music and new voices!

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late to  
donate!*

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