

Exultate
CHAMBER SINGERS

MARK RAMSAY | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

TO THE

FUTURE

Friday, May 12, 2023

Calvin Presbyterian Church
26 Delisle Avenue, Toronto

Special Guests

Concreamus
Kai Leung, Artistic Director



WWW.EXULTATE.NET

*Inspired
by
Youth!*

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

Welcome, and thank you so much for joining us on our final concert of this terrific season!

Tonight's program celebrates young composers, singers, and conductors. You will hear exciting new works by young local, national, and international composers, fantastic choral singing by our special guests Concreamus, and strong leadership from young conductors with both ensembles.

A special shoutout to our third apprentice conductor Gillian Wang, who has been learning along with us during the preparation for this concert. Our apprentice conductor program has quickly become a sought-after development program in our local choral community. Thank YOU for your generous donations that help to make programs like this possible.

The opening piece on our concert was commissioned by the Young New Yorkers' Chorus, and composer Dale Trumbore includes this note with her music:

"It is so easy to forget, in the context of everyday life, that time will ultimately catch up with all of us. There's no antidote, but in the meantime, we should 'take off our watches' more often, finding ourselves 'tangled up in love' with another or just with this life, and granting time permission, if not to stop, then to slow."

Thank you for spending your evening with us, and I hope the music on tonight's program helps you to briefly escape time.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Ramsay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Ramsay" clearly distinguishable.



Mark Ramsay, Artistic Director

PROGRAMME

In the Middle

Music: Dale Trombore
Text: Barbara Crooker



Gray Fog

Music: Ryan Henwood 
Text: Sara Teasdale 


Now the light is beginning to dawn II ^{1,2}

Music: Nicholas Wanstall 
Text: From letters by Vincent and Theo van Gogh

Lying Awake, Waiting

Music: Sami Anguaya 
Text: Tom Robinson 



The River of Sleep

Music: Nicholas Wanstall 
Text: Ella Wheeler Wilcox


Improvisations

Music: Elements Choir 

Too Still for Dreams


Music: E.K.R. Hammell 
Text: Agnes Ethelwyn Wetherald 

Twilight


Music: Francesca Hauser 
Text: Sara Teasdale

INTERMISSION


Earth: Part Two ¹

Music and Text: Brianna Levesque 

blue is a colour/thank you green

Music: Benjamin Sigerson 
Text: Jasmine Choi 

Lucy ¹

Music: Ben Sellick 
Text: William Wordsworth


Numbers

Music and text: Shruthi Rajasekar

Remember

Music: Madox Terrell 
Text: Christina Rossetti

I Reap a Long December

Music: Benjamin Keast 
Text: sijo by Hwang Jini (English translation from Korean)

Now the light is beginning to dawn I ^{1,3}

Music: Nicholas Wanstall 
Text: From letters by Vincent and Theo van Gogh

A Place Fear Can't Find

Music: Kai Leung 
Text: Jaylen Stark 

Now the light is beginning to dawn III ^{1,2,3}

Music: Nicholas Wanstall 
Text: From letters by Vincent and Theo van Gogh

1. World Premiere

2. Commissioned by Exultate Chamber Singers, 2023

3. Commissioned by Concreamus, 2023

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
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Caleb Jonker, bass
Kelly Lin, alto
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Hannah Martin, alto
Lachlan Mason, bass

Sadie Menicanin, soprano
Anna-Maria Mersov, alto
Vivian Moens, soprano
Lindsay Naft, 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 six albums, and enjoyed airplay on CBC Radio. Exultate's most recent album, *At First Light*, showcases Canadian choral music commissioned by the choir in recent years.

BIOS

Mark Ramsay

Artistic Director
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.



Gillian Wang

Apprentice Conductor

Gillian Wang is a fourth year music education student at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music. Currently, she studies conducting with Ivars Taurins and Kathleen Allan, and is a committed chorister in U of T's Chamber Choir.

Beyond U of T, Gillian's ambition for music education is realized through her role as a music teacher at Western Heights Montessori School and her private piano studio.

Gillian hopes to inspire future generations to discover the joys of choral music. She believes that this opportunity with Exultate is an invaluable step in her music journey and an exceptional chance to pursue her passion for choral conducting.



Concreamus

OUR GUESTS

Concreamus is a 50-voice new music choir dedicated to innovation in the choral arts and the creation and performance of excellent new works by young composers. The group is made up of singers, students, composers, and educators from around the GTA.

Concreamus, Latin for “we create together,” encourages a creative dialogue between composers and performers, through which both groups can offer their insight and be inspired in new ways.

Over the span of three seasons, the choir has premiered more than 25 choral works by early-career composers. Concreamus has collaborated with various musical organizations, including appearing in concert with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Green Room Music Collective, and at SING! Festival Toronto.



Kai Leung

Concreamus Artistic Director & Composer
kaileung.ca

Kai Leung holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Toronto, where he studied voice and composition. He is the Artistic Director of Modern Sound Collective, where he conducts Concreamus, Sehnsucht, and Frisson.

He also serves as the Associate Conductor with Orpheus Choir of Toronto, the Assistant Conductor with Toronto Youth Choir and TCC's Coro, and as the Assistant Conductor and Composer in Residence at St. Clement's Church. Kai sings baritone with TMSingers and Schola Cantorum of Saint Basil's Catholic Church. Kai is also the conductor and choir manager of Toronto Festival Singers, the professional synagogue choir at Song Shul.

Nicholas Wanstall

Composer & pianist
nicholaswanstall.com

Nicholas Wanstall is an award winning pianist, organist, composer, and vocalist based in Toronto, Canada. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance from the University of Toronto, received under the guidance of beloved organist and conductor John Tuttle.

Nicholas is heavily involved with the Toronto Children's Chorus, serving as accompanist for three of the choirs within their organization. He has worked as organist and choir director at several parishes in Toronto before starting as Director of Music at the Church of St. Mary & St. Martha.



TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

In the Middle

Music: Dale Trumbore

Text: Barbara Crooker

In the middle
of a life that's as complicated as everyone else's,
struggling for balance, juggling time.
The mantle clock that was my grandfather's
has stopped at 9:20; we haven't had time
to get it repaired. The brass pendulum is still,
the chimes don't ring. One day I look out the window,
green summer, the next, the leaves have already fallen,
and a grey sky lowers the horizon. Our children almost grown,
our parents gone, it happened so fast. Each day, we must learn
again how to love, between morning's quick coffee
and evening's slow return. Steam from a pot of soup rises,
mixing with the yeasty smell of baking bread. Our bodies
twine, and the big black dog pushes his great head between;
his tail, a metronome, 3/4 time. We'll never get there,
Time is always ahead of us, running down the beach, urging
us on faster, faster, but sometimes we take off our watches,
sometimes we lie in the hammock, caught between the mesh
of rope and the net of stars, suspended, tangled up
in love, running out of time.

Grey Fog

Music: Ryan Henwood

Text: Sara Teasdale

A FOG drifts in, the heavy laden
Cold white ghost of the sea—
One by one the hills go out,
The road and the pepper-tree.
I watch the fog float in at the window
With the whole world gone blind,

Everything, even my longing, drowns,
Even the thoughts in my mind.
I put my head on my hands before me,
There is nothing left to be done or said,
There is nothing to hope for, I am tired,
And heavy as the dead.

Now the light is beginning to dawn II

Music: Nicholas Wanstall

Text: From letters by Vincent and Theo van Gogh

The year has not been easy or free from care for me.
How much sadness there is in life;
I feel overwhelmed by boredom and grief.
What can I do?
Will it get better or worse in time?

Let us hope that this grim shadow will remain a passing shadow;
For life is so short and goes so fast.
Even if I fail, I want to leave my mark here and there behind me.

I cannot shake off a feeling of deep melancholy.
I will try to fight the good fight.
Now the light is beginning to dawn, and in spite of everything, the sun is rising

lying awake, waiting

Music: Sami Anguaya

Text: "waiting by," Tom Robinson & Sami Anguaya

Rise the dream is over now
Come, and face the light of day
Bright, blinding
In dreams I lie awake
Waiting..
Like a turtle on a deadhead
Just taking in rays, taking in rays.
Waiting..
Like some hummingbird at a feeder, hovering..
Staring..
I lay low,
waiting..
Like a fossil by a roadside,
Waiting....
To be picked up

The River of Sleep

Music: Nicholas Wanstall

Text: Ella Wheeler Wilcox

There are curious isles in the River of Sleep,
Curious isles without number.
We'll visit them all as we leisurely creep
Down the winding stream whose current
 is deep,
In our beautiful barge of Slumber.

The very first isle in this wonderful stream
Quite close to the shore is lying,
And after a supper of cakes and cream
We come to the Night-Mare-Isle with a scream,
And hurry away from it crying.

And next is the Island-of-Lullaby,
And every one there rejoices.
The winds are only a perfumed sigh,
And the birds that sing in the treetops try
To imitate Mothers' voices.

A little beyond is the Isle-of-Dreams;
Oh, that is the place to be straying.
Everything there is just as it seems;
Dolls are real and sunshine gleams,
And no one calls us from playing.

And then we come to the drollest isle,
And the funniest sounds come pouring
Down from its borderlands once in a while,
And we lean o'er our barge and listen and
 smile;
For that is the Isle-of-Snoring.

And the very last isle in the River of Sleep
Is the sunshiny Isle-of-Waking.
We see it first with our eyes a-peep,
And we give a yawn-then away we leap,
The barge of Slumber forsaking.

Too Still for Dreams

Music: E.K.R. Hammell

Text: Agnes Ethelwyn Wetherald

Excerpts from “The House of the Trees” and “Woodland Worship”

It seems too still for dreams.
Open your doors and take me in,
Spirit of the wood;
Wash me clean of dust and din,
Clothe me in your mood.
Take me from the noisy light
To the sunless peace,
Where at midday standeth Night,
Signing Toil’s release.
Open your doors and take me in,
Spirit of the wood;

Take me—make me next of kin
To your leafy brood.
Lift your leafy roof for me,
Part your yielding walls,
Let me wander lingeringly
Through your scented halls.
Open your doors and take me in,
Spirit of the wood

Twilight

Music: Francesca Hauser

Text: Sara Teasdale

Dreamily over the roofs
The cold spring rain is falling;
Out in the lonely tree
A bird is calling, calling.

Slowly over the earth
The wings of night are falling;
My heart like the bird in the tree
Is calling, calling, calling.

Earth: Part Two

Music and text: Brianna Levesque

Happy butterfly
Longing to be free
Beautiful butterfly
Travelling across the sea

Knowing butterfly
Flying into the unknown
Waiting butterfly
For the wind to take her home

Oh Fly, fly butterfly
Fast then slow,
high then low,
Follow your dreams though the winds
they blow,
Butterfly, butterfly, fly.

Soaring butterfly
Gliding on wings of Grace
Loving butterfly
Wrapped in warmth’s embrace

blue is a colour/thank you green

Music: Benjamin Sigerson

Text: Jasmine Choi

blue is a colour
a beautiful colour
but so is green

I notice all the blue because it pops
more than other colours
my eyes are attracted to blue

I am attracted to blue
blue is beautiful and sad

but blue is overrated
it surrounds my life
through sky or through pen
blue expects so much, yet gives so little

green, however,
is always there when you need it.

I wish I could handle all the blue in my life
I love blue
but I am scared of blue
my mind is already washed over
with so, so much blue

I wish I was strong enough to give blue
what she wants
I wish blue would appreciate my colourful
efforts
I wish I could
but I cannot
because blue does not want me

Thank you green,
you warm my heart when there are only
broken strands of ice left,
you pull the leaves off the tree and put
the happiness back into my eyes

I love you.
I am glad for you.

Lucy

Music: Ben W. Sellick

Text: William Wordsworth (II in series of V "Lucy" poems)

She dwelt among the untrodden ways
Beside the springs of Dove,
A Maid whom there were none to praise
And very few to love:

She lived unknown, and few could know
When Lucy ceased to be;
But she is in her grave, and oh,
The difference to me!

A violet by a mossy stone
Half hidden from the eye!
Fair as a star, when only one
Is shining in the sky.

Numbers

Music and text: Shruthi Rajasekar

(I - Babylonian system)

fifty-nine
one one one
one two three one two three
one two three four five six seven eight nine ten eleven twelve thirteen fourteen
fifteen sixteen
one two three four five
fifty-nine

(II - Decimal system)

one five seven
three four two three four two three four five seven six five
one five seven two one five seven two three one five four sev'n

(III - Binary system)

zero zero one zero zero zero one zero one zero zero zero one one zero one...

Remember

Music: Madox Terrell

Text: Christina Rossetti

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you plann'd:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.

I Reap A Long December Night

Music: Benjamin Keast

Text: sijo by Hwang Jini (English translation from Korean)

I reap a long December night
in its deepest place

That I might unravel it, coil by coil,
the night my love returns

And wrethe it gently
under my spring-breeze quilt

Now the light is beginning to dawn I

Music: Nicholas Wanstall

Text: From letters by Vincent and Theo van Gogh

The sun is rising;
In spite of everything, the sun is rising.
Keep courage, old fellow.
We must keep good courage.
We must push on; Don't lose heart.

Let us hope that this grim shadow will remain a passing shadow;
For life is so short and goes so fast.
Even if I fail, I want to leave my mark here and there behind me.

Be as happy as you can;
Keep courage, old fellow.
Now the light is beginning to dawn, and in spite of everything, the sun is rising.

A Place Fear Can't Find

Music: Kai Leung

Text: Jaylen Stark

I see a sign
one I don't recognize
checkered lines to my left
they pass by
like thoughts by my eyes
of all those I have left
behind me
There's a blindspot
I don't care to see
I hear construction on the road ahead
and I see a sign that says
Stop
go slow
but don't veer off
new faces are crossing your path
don't u-turn around now
fear is not a place
not in cracks in concrete

it's in me
every time
I see a face
one I don't recognize
in eyes to my right
a past by those too busy to cry
of shaking hands which write broken
which right's broken?
which eye's blind?
I care
to see construction
a road
a head turned around
and see a face
a sign
for a place fear can't find
for a place checkered lines stop

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear friends of Exultate,

The Exultate board is an energetic, capable, engaged, and welcoming group who work collaboratively to support the mission and mandate of Exultate. Our board of directors is made up of both choristers and community members, and possesses a wide range of professional backgrounds and skill sets. We are striving to create a board that reflects the diversity of our choir members and community.

Scan the QR code to find out more about the choir's history, our mission and mandate, the roles and qualifications of board members, time and financial commitments, and how to contact us if you are interested. Or just send us a note at info@exultate.net.

Scott Brubacher, Board Chair



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CHAMBER
SINGERS

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It features music by Sami Anguaya, Mari Alice Conrad, Matthew Emery, Jeff Enns, E.K.R. Hammell, Virginia Kilbertus, Katharine Petkovski, & Tracy Wong

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