

Exultate CHAMBER SINGERS

MARK RAMSAY | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

{ WATER FORMS } Immersion

Friday, March 24, 2023

Calvin Presbyterian Church
26 Delisle Avenue, Toronto



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
Lynn Janes, soprano*
Bina John, alto
Mira Jung, alto
Jim King, bass
Caleb Jonker, bass
Kelly Lin, alto
Rachel MacEwan, soprano
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 sixth album, just released, showcases new Canadian choral music commissioned by the choir in recent years.

PROGRAMME

Okâwîmâw Askiy (Mother Earth)

Music: Sherryl Sewepagaham 
Text: Woodland Cree poem 
by Sherryl Sewepagaham
from traditional Cree teachings


Water, from *Elements*
Rachel MacEwan & Suzanne Coultres, *soloists*

Music & Text: Katerina Gimon 



Out of the Rolling Ocean

Music: Fahad Siadat
Text: Walt Whitman

Away from the Roll of the Sea

Music and text: Allister MacGillivray 

Solstice Shadows

Music: Carmen Braden 
Text: Clea Roberts 


Ice

Music and text: Bruce Sled 

Super flumina Babylonis
(By the waters of Babylon)

Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
Text: Psalm 137

Deep River
Julia Brotto & June Higgins, *soloists*

Traditional spiritual
arr. Nathaniel Dett 
ed. Marques Garrett

Stand In That River
Hannah Martin, *soloist*

Music and text: Moira Smiley

There Will Come Soft Rains

Music: Matt Podd
Text: Sara Teasdale

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

Thank you for joining us tonight as we dive headfirst into our theme of water! (Sorry . . . couldn't resist!)

Growing up on Prince Edward Island, I took it for granted that you could enjoy a water view numerous times each day as you went about your daily business, and you could be at the water's edge in minutes after a short drive from most locations. When I moved to downtown Toronto, I would often embark on casual walks to clear my mind and inevitably, I would end up walking along the waterfront. It was then that I started reflecting on the powerful connections we share with water.

Tonight's program highlights music that was inspired by this connection. We will explore oceans, rivers, frozen tundra, cracking ice, and spring rain. The music of Palestrina and Nathaniel Dett reminds us of connections between water and spirituality. I encourage you to pay particular attention to the opening and closing of the concert. Composers Sherryll Sewepagaham and Matt Podd remind us that most importantly, we must protect this precious resource.

It is always a pleasure to sing for you. Thank you for your ongoing support.



Mark Ramsay, Artistic Director

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the important, generous, and ongoing contributions of:

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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.

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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

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Okâwîmâw Askiy (Mother Earth)

Music: Sherryl Sewepagaham

Text: Woodland Cree poem by Sherryl Sewepagaham
from traditional Cree Teachings

Okâwîmâw askiy
Niyanân kitawâsim sak
Kisâkihitanan

Mother Earth
We are your children
We love you

Water, from *Elements*

Music and text by Katerina Gimon

water
growth, change
deep, reflective, fluid
flowing, connecting, nourishing, and cleansing
water

Out of the Rolling Ocean

Music: Fahad Siadat

Text: Walt Whitman

Out of the rolling ocean the crowd came a drop gently to me,
Whispering, I love you, before long I die,
I have travell'd a long way merely to look on you to touch you,
For I could not die till I once look'd on you,
For I fear'd I might afterward lose you.

Now we have met, we have look'd, we are safe,
Return in peace to the ocean my love,
I too am part of that ocean, my love, we are not so much separated,
Behold the great rondure, the cohesion of all, how perfect!
But as for me, for you, the irresistible sea is to separate us,
As for an hour carrying us diverse, yet cannot carry us diverse forever;
Be not impatient—a little space—know you I salute the air, the ocean and the land,
Every day at sundown for your dear sake, my love.

Away from the Roll of the Sea

Music and text: Allister MacGillivray

Small craft in a harbour that's still and serene
give no indication what their ways have been.
They rock at their moorings all nestled in dreams,
away from the roll of the sea.

Their stern lines are groaning a lullaby air,
a ghost in the cuddy, a gull on the spar.
But never they whisper of journeys afar
away from the roll of the sea.

Oh, had they the tongues for to speak,
what tales of adventure they'd weave,
but now they are anchored to sleep and slumber a-lee.

Come fair winds to wake them tomorrow we pray.
Come harvest a-plenty to them ev'ry day
till guided by harbour lights they're home to stay,
away from the roll of the sea.

Solstice Shadows

Music: Carmen Braden

Text: Clea Roberts

Just as the flooded ditches
are sealed with ice,
there is music or there
is snow.

The morning light
comes later and later.
Once I would have felt
this as heaviness,

But the edges of darkness
are so soft and full of threads,
the light is teased out
and ready.

[I've decided to speak—
I've released
certainty, sent the pain
of grief and love
like a deer into night]

Ice

Music and text: Bruce Sled

frozen breaking ice

Super flumina Babylonis

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Psalm 137

Super flumina Babylonis illic sedimus et flevimus, dum recordaremur Sion.
In salicibus in medio ejus suspendimus organa nostra:

By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept: when we remembered thee, O Sion.
As for our harps, we hanged them up: upon the trees that are therein.

Deep River
Traditional spiritual
arr. Nathaniel Dett
ed. Marques Garrett

Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
Deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into campground.
Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast,
That promised land where all is peace?

Stand In That River
Music and text: Moira Smiley

I went to the river, but the river was dry.
The dust rose up to a darkened sky.
Tell me, where is hope?
Where do the waters run clear?
I do not know my way from here.

Come, and stand in that river.
Current, gentle and slow.
Send your troubles down water.
Down on that water flow.

When you stand in that river,
Angels sing in your head.
Secrets beyond every worry
dreams beyond every dread.

Tell me, sister, brother;
Where does that river flow?
It flows down to the great water,
Where soon my people will go.

Oh, Time passes.
Passes on down the stream.
Some days are so much sweeter.
Some days pass like a dark dream...so

Come, and stand in that river.
Current, gentle and slow.
Send your troubles down water.
Down on that water flow.

There Will Come Soft Rains
Music: Matthew Podd
Text for this piece comes from two poems by Sara Teasdale

May Night

The spring is fresh and fearless
And every leaf is new,
The world is brimmed with moonlight,
The lilac brimmed with dew.

Here in the moving shadows
I catch my breath and sing—
My heart is fresh and fearless
And over-brimmed with spring.

There Will Come Soft Rains (War Time)

There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground,
And swallows circling with their shimmering sound;
And frogs in the pools singing at night,
And wild plum trees in tremulous white,
Robins will wear their feathery fire
Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire;
And not one will know of the war, not one
Will care at last when it is done.
Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree
If mankind perished utterly;
And Spring herself, when she woke at dawn,
Would scarcely know that we were gone.

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Last concert of the season!

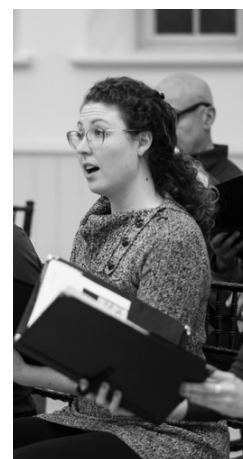
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FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023, 8:00 P.M.

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!



Sam Moffatt Photography

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MARK RAMSAY | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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