



EXULTATE
CHAMBER SINGERS
MARK RAMSAY | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

VOICES
HIGH
&
LOW

Friday, April 25, 2025
Calvin Presbyterian Church, Toronto

Toronto Children's Chorus, *special guests*
Alice Ping Yee Ho and Sherryl Sewepagaham, *featured composers*
Karen Hu, *apprentice conductor*

● A note from our Artistic Director

Welcome to our beautiful celebration of spring as we mark the final concert of our 43rd season! Tonight's concert is special in that it showcases Exultate's commitment to collaboration.

We have a proud history of commissioning Canadian composers and tonight we are thrilled to present two world premieres! A giant thank you to award-winning composers Alice Ping Yee Ho and Sherryl Sewepagaham for thoughtfully crafting us two new works to share tonight. Both pieces beautifully connect to our theme of Voices High and Low while remaining true to your own unique compositional styles. A special thanks to Chihiro Yasufuku for your guidance with our Japanese diction.

We also are thrilled to highlight the next generation of choral artists. Thank you to our friends at the Toronto Children's Chorus for sharing your talents tonight. It's exciting to join forces with you as we bring Sherryl's music to life. And congratulations to Karen Hu, our seventh Apprentice Conductor. You have a very bright future ahead as a choral leader!

Most importantly, thank YOU, our dedicated followers, for all you do to support us and these important initiatives. We truly could not do what we do without you!

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.

VOICES & HIGH LOW

There Will Come Soft Rains

Matt Podd

Dawn

Emily Green 🍁

魔法の昆虫 Basho's Magical Insects (world premiere)

Alice Ping Yee Ho 🍁

君や蝶我や莊子が夢心 Am I a Butterfly or a Man?

夜ル竊二虫は月下の栗を穿ツ Chestnut Worm

やがて死ぬけしきは見えず蟬の声 The Cry of the Cicada

Father Thunder, Latvian Folk Song

arr. Laura Jēkabsone

Singkap Siaga

Liepa Spakauskas, soloist

Tracy Wong 🍁

Abendlied

Josef Rheinberger,
arr. Nadezhda Averina

Ain't No Grave Can Hold My Body Down

Sign Language: Sarah Abai

Traditional Spiritual,
arr. Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory

síkwahki (In the Spring) (world premiere)

Sherryl Sewepagaham 🍁

Frostiana

Randall Thompson

1. The Road Not Taken

2. The Pasture

3. Come In

4. The Telephone

5. A Girl's Garden

6. Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

7. Choose Something Like a Star



SCAN TO READ TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

EXULTATE

CHAMBER SINGERS

Mark Ramsay, *Artistic Director and Conductor*

Mira Jung, *Pianist*

Karen Hu, *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

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
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Duncan Stuart
Mishaal Surti
Alan Wiseman*

** on leave*



SCAN TO READ SINGER BIOS



ALICE PING YEE HO,
featured composer

Alice Ping Yee Ho is a distinguished Chinese Canadian composer known for her genre-spanning works in opera, orchestral, chamber, dance, and theatre music. Her compositions are celebrated for emotional depth, innovation, and originality. A two-time JUNO Award nominee, she has released 10 solo albums and received numerous accolades, including the 2024 Jules Léger Prize for New Chamber Music, the 2022 Symphony Nova Scotia Maria Anna Mozart Award, the 2022 Barlow Endowment Commissioning Award, and the 2019 Johanna Metcalf Performing Arts Prize. Her opera *The Lesson of Da Ji* won the 2013 Mavor Dora Moore Award for “Best Original Opera.” Ho’s music has been performed globally by ensembles like the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Philharmonic, National Taiwan Symphony, Luxembourg Sinfonietta, and Finnish Lapland Chamber Orchestra. Her operas—*The Lesson of Da Ji*, *The Monkiest King*, and *Chinatown*—blend Eastern and Western influences, showcasing her cross-cultural vision and inspiring audiences worldwide.



SHERRYL SEWEPAGAHAM,
featured composer

Sherryl Sewepagaham, a dynamic Cree-Dene artist from Little Red River Cree Nation, Northern Alberta, blends her heritage with artistry, composition, and education. She is a doctoral student in ethnomusicology and devoted over two decades to music education from kindergarten to grade 6, infusing Indigenous musical traditions. She also holds a Bachelor of Music Therapy (Capilano University), a Bachelor of Education and Masters of Education (University of Alberta). Sherryl is a 22-year member of the 2005 Juno-nominated, Edmonton-based trio Asani and composes drum songs in the Cree language. Asani received a 2010 Canadian Folk Music Award, a 2010 Indian Summer Music Award, a 2005 Canadian Aboriginal Music Award, and many other music awards nominations. Asani toured extensively around the world performing at Carnegie Hall in New York, The Kennedy Centre in Washington D.C., and the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver BC.

Sherryl is also a composer of traditional and contemporary First Nations drum songs. Her 2014 debut solo album, *Splashing the Water Loudly*, received a 2015 Indigenous Music Award nomination and is featured in APTN’s *Chaos and Courage* series. Sherryl wrote the music and lyrics for the National Arts Centre’s Music Alive Program (MAP) song, “Music Alive”, which has been shared with elementary schools across Canada. Sherryl also created and co-created three teacher resources for the MAP program and continues to develop cultural programs for music teachers.



KAREN HU,
apprentice conductor

Karen Hu is a pre-service music educator, conductor, and soprano based in Milton/London, Ontario. They are currently completing a Bachelor of Music with Honours in Voice Performance at Western University. Karen serves on the Music Education Student’s Association, Choir Council, and the Faculty of Music Student’s Council at the Don Wright Faculty of Music, and on Choral Canada’s Student Chapter Executive Committee. As an avid choral artist, Karen is currently the assistant conductor of the Karen Schuessler Singers and conductor of the Student Leadership Choral Collective and UWO Choir at Western and sings with the Western University Singers and at Dundas Street United Church. Karen is also the co-creator of *The Choral Collection*: a database of resources to expand and (re) imagine choral practice, a platform of choral resources to expand upon programming and advocating for the inclusion of Access, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization practices in choral spaces.

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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SCAN TO DONATE



toronto **children's** chorus

Zimfira Poloz, Artistic Director

Ways to support the Toronto Children's Chorus



To the many of you who have generously supported Exultate this season, WE THANK YOU!
If you have been meaning to donate, now is a great time! Consider doing so as a gift in honour of
someone in the choir or someone who might appreciate Exultate's outreach programs,
commissioning initiatives, and glorious choral music!



Contact us: info@exultate.net

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