# Wonders of Winter

# VIVALDI CHAMBER CHOIR



Edette Gagné, Artistic Director Barry Yamanouchi, Pianist

27 NOVEMBER 2021 - 7:30PM

ST. HELEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH 4405 W 8TH AVE, VANCOUVER

# Vivaldi Chamber Choir WONDERS OF WINTER

# A Message from our Artistic Director

Renaissance: a rebirth – a revival – a spirit of renewal

Amateur: one who does something because they love it

These words took a powerful place in the hearts and minds of every member of the Vivaldi Chamber Choir family this fall, as we returned to singing together after so many months apart. A simple diatonic scale sung as a round brought tears and goose bumps, as we began our choral renaissance. The feeling defied description.

"Wonders of Winter" is a heart-centred program that explores the emotions, sensations and celebrations enjoyed during our Canadian winters. The warmth of friendship melting the chill of the frost – the celebration of the light that will grow from the longest night of the year – the magic and history of Christmas – and the joyful hope of beginning anew.

This musical journey afforded us the opportunity to explore repertoire outside of what has become the traditional "choral canon." In doing so, we discovered a wealth of beautiful compositions and are delighted to amplify the voices of female poets, composers and arrangers from throughout the ages. We also are proud to celebrate the richness of Canadian talent *and* feature many living composers and arrangers.

I offer deep gratitude to everyone who supported the arts and our choir during the past season. We want you to know that your ongoing support with ticket purchases and donations has been key to our successful renaissance.

May we all stay safe this winter and thrive with love and hope in our hearts.

Edette Gagné

Please be advised that during the performance our Artistic Director will be unmasked, in accordance with ActSafe BC regulations.

# WONDERS OF WINTER

Winter

Song for a Winter's Night Gordon Lightfoot (b. 1938); arr. Robin Salkeld

**"Winter"** Anne Hunter (1742–1821)

The Frost Kathleen Allan (b. 1989)

Mid-Winter Night's Dream Elise Letourneau (b. 1967)

**Solstice** 

"Winter Solstice" Hilda Morley (1916–1998)

Solstice Song Jan Garrett (b. 1945); arr. Larry Nickel

Solstice Carol Kim Baryluk (b. 1959); arr. Scott Reimer

Yuletide Fires Diane Loomer (1940-2012)

**Christmas** 

Die heilige Nacht Franz Gruber (1787-1863); arr. David Millard

"Christmas Carol" Sarah Teasdale (1884–1933)

Abendfeier in Venedig Clara Schumann (1819–1896)

A La Nanita Nana Traditional Spanish carol; arr. Patty Gartshore

Go Tell It Traditional Spiritual; arr. Kathryn Parrotta

Solos: Tyler Enns, Sarah Little

When Christmas Comes Joanna Schwarz (b. 1951); arr. Larry Nickel

The New Year

"New Year's Poem" Margaret Avison (1918–2007)

Auld Lang Syne arr. Fabiana Katz

Maria Golas, Edette Gagné, Kees van den Doel

Deck the Hall Traditional Carol; arr. Jocelyn Hagen

Bien vite c'est le jour de l'an La Bolduc (1894-1941); arr. Erica Phare-Bergh

# **Our Choir**

#### **Sopranos**

Yasmine Bia; Susie Britnell; Catherine Crouch\*; Winnie Gibson; Denise Gilbert; Mary Leigh-Warden\*; Sarah Little; Samantha Merz; Freda Miller; Jessica Wright

#### **Tenors**

Steve Froese\*; David Kaplen; Milton McCrystal<sup>†</sup>; Marcus Petrunia\*; Jorge Vega

#### Altos

Catherine Allaire; Margaret Archibald; Michelle Arduini; Bev Ferguson; Joan Fitzpatrick; Maria Golas\*; Karen Millard; Eve Munns

#### **Basses**

Douglas Abel; Kees van den Doel; Tyler Enns; Ron Hagerman; Byron Hanson\*; Aaron Lau; Michael Loo; David Millard; Mike Millard; Peter Munns; Jim Peers

#### Barry Yamanouchi Piano

\*Section Leads; †On Leave; ‡Administrative Assistant

#### **Our Thanks**

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The Government of British Columbia



Conrad Carsten-Krebs; Dr. Andrew Seebaran; West Point Grey Time Co.; InPrint Graphics; Nigel Fitzpatrick; Peter and Eve Munns; Margaret Froese; Anthony Roper; Linda Noble; St. Helen's Anglican Church; Jennifer Cote; Ellen Fowler; Kathryn Small; Melisa Tang; Peretz Centre for Secular Jewish Culture; Edette Gagné; David Millard; Mary Leigh-Warden

# Digital Release: WONDERS OF WINTER

The digital release of the filmed, live November 27<sup>th</sup> concert will be available for viewing from December 17, 2021 to January 9, 2022. Details regarding online ticket sales for the release will be announced following the in-person performance.

**Credits:** Photography, Audio-Video Recording and Editing: Michelle Koebke, Diamond's Edge Photography

# Our Next Concert: IN REMEMBRANCE Saturday March 12, 2022

We are proud to present this special performance featuring the world premiere of *Requiem* by David Millard, composed in memory of long-time and beloved Vivaldi Chamber Choir member, Alan Ryder. Please find further choir details on our website, <a href="https://www.vivaldichoir.org">www.vivaldichoir.org</a>.

# **Texts and Translations**

#### Song for a Winter's Night

The lamp is burning 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's 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's night with you.

The fire is dying, the lamp is growing dim,
The shades of night are lifting,
The morning lights my windowpane
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,
On this winter's night with you,
And to be once again with you.

#### The Frost

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 silence as one bound.

The rippled sheet of snow where the wind blew Across the open fields for miles ahead; The faroff city tower'd and roofed in blue, Upon the western red.

The stars that singly, then in flocks appear, Like jets of silver from a 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.

Archibald Lampman

#### A Mid-Winter Night's Dream

The snows outside are white and white, the gusty flue shouts thru the night; by lonely chimney light I sit and dream of Summer.

The orchard bough creaks in the blast, that like a ghost goes shrieking past, coals are dying fast and fast, but still I dream of Summer.

'Tis not the dream of falling rain, or dream wind-blown through latticed pane, when earth will laugh in green again, that makes me dream of Summer.

But hopes will then have backward flown, like fleets of promise, long outblown, and Love once more will greet his own; this is my dream of Summer.

William Wilfred Campbell

#### **Solstice Song**

Deep in the darkest winter night, Here with my candle burning. Cozy and warm inside the light, Now that the year is turning.

What does the future hold in store, Where has our journey brought us? How can we learn what's gone before, What has experience taught us?

Heart of Creation, Lover of shadow and light, Sing us the songs of a billion stars Silently all thru' the night.

Friendship will lighten the darkest hours, True love will hold the vision. Peace and goodwill on earth is ours— Let it be our decision.

Heart of Creation...

Deep in the darkest winter night, Here with my candle burning. Cozy and warm inside the light, Now that the year is turning. Feel how the year is turning.

#### **Solstice Carol**

A fire is burning, the cold 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 as the mother lays down with snow as her blanket cov'ring the ground. Thanks to the mother for the life that she brings. She'll waken to warm us again in the spring.

Oh count all your blessings,
For the cold will pass.
Oh share the harvest
and the sun will shine again.
The poor, the hungry, the sick and the lost.
These are our children, no matter the cost.
Come near the fire, Our harvest we'll share,
For the spirit of solstice is still living there.

#### **Yuletide fires**

Light with the burning log of oak the darkness of thy care. Deck with the scarlet berried bough the temple of the fair. Spread pure white linen for a feast, perchance some guest may share.

Give forth thy gold and silver coins for they were lent to thee; put out to usury thy dross, one talent gaineth three.

Perchance the hungered and the poor may pray to God for thee.

Once a pale star rose in the East for wandering herds to see.

To Bedlam came a child so weak, and came strength to Galilee!

Perchance if thou dost keep thy tryst, a star may rise for thee.

### Die heilige Nacht

Stille Nacht! heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht nur das traute heilige Paar. Holder Knab' im lockigten Haar, schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh! schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh!

Stille Nacht! heilige Nacht! Hirten erst kundgemacht durch der Engel Alleluja; tönt es laut bei Ferne und Nah: 'Christ der Retter ist da!

Christ der Retter ist da!'

Christ, in deiner Geburt!

Stille Nacht! heilige Nacht! Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht Lieb' aus deine göttlichen Mund da uns schlägt die Rettende Stund, Christ, in deiner Geburt!

### The Holy Night

Silent night! Holy Night!
Everyone is sleeping. The only wakeful ones are the holy couple.
Sweet boy with curly hair,
sleep in heavenly rest!
Sleep in heavenly rest!

Silent night! Holy Night! Shepherds are first alerted by the angel's Hallelujah; it rings out loudly far and near: 'Christ the Saviour is here! Christ the Saviour is here!'

Silent night! Holy Night!
Son of God, O how love
comes with laughter from your divine mouth
and strikes for us the Hour of Salvation,
through your birth, O Christ,
through your birth, O Christ.

#### Abendfeier in Venedig

Ave Maria! Meer und Himmel ruh'n,
Von allen Türmen hallt der Glocken Ton.
Ave Maria! Laßt vom ird'schen Tun,
Zur Jungfrau betet, zu der Jungfrau Sohn!
Des Himmels Scharen selber knieen nun
Mit Lilienstäben vor des Vaters Thron,
Und durch die Rosenwolken wehn die Lieder
Der sel'gen Geister feierlich hernieder.

#### **Evening Celebration in Venice**

Ave Maria! The sea and the heavens are at rest; from every tower rings out the sound of bells. Ave Maria! Leave off from worldly endeavours; pray to the Virgin, to the Virgin's Son! Even the heavenly hosts are kneeling now, with lily staves\*, before the Father's throne, and through the roseate clouds, the songs of the blessed spirits waft solemnly down to us.

Emanuel Geibel

\* The lily stave is a sceptre terminating in a *fleur-de-lis*. A symbol of divine power and grace, it is often depicted in the hands of angels in Mediæval art.

#### A la Nanita Nana

A la nanita nana, nanita ea, nanita ea. Mi Jesús tiene sueño, bendito sea, bendito sea. Fuentecilla corres, clara y sonora, Ruiseñor qu'en la selva cantando lloras, Callad mientras la cuna se balancea. A la nanita nana, nanita ea.

#### Lullyby, Lulla-lullaby

Lullaby, lulla-lullaby, lulla-lullaby.
My Jesus is sleeping, he who is blessed.
Little spring running, clear and sonorous,
Nightingale in the forest, singing mournfully,
Hush yourselves while the cradle is being rocked.
Lullaby, lulla-lullaby.

#### Go Tell It!

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere, go tell it on the mountain that a little baby is born.

While shepherds watched their keeping o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere, go tell it on the mountain that a little baby is born.

Down in a lonely manger, the tiny child was born, and He sent down salvation that blessed us all that morn.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere, go tell it on the mountain that a little baby is born.

#### When Christmas Comes

There's a hush in the snow gently falling and we turn from the dark and the cold to the wonder that starts in each of our hearts when Christmas, Christmas comes.

There's a welcome for friends who come calling as they share in warm mem'ries of old, and the thoughts bring is near to the ones we hold dear when Christmas, Christmas comes.

There were angels who smiled on a mother and child on that first Christmas day long ago. There was glory afar, from the light of a star sent to earth so all people might know.

When there's joy in the heart of a stranger and a feeling of hope and good will, when the love of a child in a manger stays alive within all of us still, when we honour his birth and pray, "Peace on earth", then Christmas, Christmas comes.

#### **Deck the Hall**

Deck the hall with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la la la la la la.

Tis the season to be jolly,
Fa la la la la la la la la.

Fill the meadcup, drain the barrel,
Fa la la la la la la la la.

Troul the ancient Christmas carol,
Fa la la la la la la la la.

See the flowing bowl before us,
Fa la la la la la la la la.
Strike the harp and join the chorus,
Fa la la la la la la la la.
Follow me in merry measure,
Fa la la la la la la la la.
While I sing of beauty's treasure,
Fa la la la la la la la.

Fast away the old year passes,
Fa la la la la la la la la.
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,
Fa la la la la la la la la.
Laughing, quaffing all together,
Fa la la la la la la la la.
Heedless of the wind and weather,
Fa la la la la la la la la.

As first published in: Thomas Oliphaunt, *Welsh melodies:* with Welsh and English poetry (1862)

#### Bien Vite C'est le Jour de l'An

Bien vite c'est le jour de l'An qui nous revient à tous les ans. Parlons donc l'ancien temps tout le monde s'amusait gaiement. On rassemblait les parents; on avait plus d'agrément.

Pendant que les enfants joueront, la parenté s'embrasseront avec une grande tendresse et fait avec politesse; sur les deux joues, sur le front, mais tout ça sans permission.

C'est bien beau de s'amuser, il faut penser à manger. On mangera des bonne tartes à la farlouche et aux dattes. Et aussi des bonnes tourtières, fait par notre bonne grandmère.

Quand la journée terminée, que tout le monde s'est amusé! Bien vite c'est le jour de l'An. N'oublies pas la tourtière!

#### Very Soon it will be New Year's Day

Very soon, it will be New Year's Day, which comes back to us every year. Let's speak, then, of times past: everyone amused themselves merrily. The parents gathered together; we had such conviviality.

While the children play, the relatives will kiss each other with a great gesture of tenderness, done with politeness: on both cheeks, on the forehead, but all without permission.

It's all very well to have fun, but we need to talk about eating. We'll eat nice pies filled with raisins or with dates. And also lovely tourtières (meat pies), made by our lovely grandmother.

When the day has ended, how much fun will everyone have had! Very soon, it will be New Year's Day. Don't forget the tourtière!





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