

# Vivaldi Chamber Choir

## The Seven Last Words of Christ



A curated selection of choral gems will set the stage for a meditative performance of Franz Joseph Haydn's "Seven Last Words of Christ" - sung in English with spectacular projections and narration.

**Edette Gagné, Artistic Director**  
**Guest Orchestra: Ensemble Harmonia**  
**Narrator: Tony Roper**

**MARCH 4, 2023 @ 7:30PM**  
**PACIFIC SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH**

# VIVALDI CHAMBER CHOIR

## The Seven Last Words of Christ

Edette Gagné Artistic Director and Conductor  
Ensemble Harmonia – Nicholas Urquhart, Conductor

Pacific Spirit United Church, Vancouver British Columbia, March 4, 2023

### A Message from Edette Gagné

I feel privileged to share with you these gorgeous compositions as a contemplative experience. The four short pieces were chosen to set the tone for the larger work that follows. Each of them touches upon one of the many interwoven sacred texts centred around Good Friday in the Christian tradition - words that have inspired composers around the world and across the ages.

We invite you to take a deep breath and allow yourself to settle in this beautiful space, surrounded by this exquisite music. Whether it touches you on an aesthetic or personal or spiritual level, we hope that you enjoy this chance to stop and rest.

One of the reasons I am so passionate about music is that this kind of shared experience transcends our differences to create a unity that gives me hope and joy. Please linger after the concert to meet this evening's artists and join us here on June 10th for "What's OPERA Doc?".

### A Message from Tony Lee, Founder of Harmonia and the annual SEVEN LAST WORDS PROJECT

Easter weekend is widely celebrated in many countries around the world. It is commonly associated with chocolate bunnies, easter egg hunts and hot cross buns. For Christians, Easter is actually of greater significance than Christmas, because we celebrate the risen Christ. Jesus Christ, Son of God took on human form and was crucified on Good Friday.

Jesus, by his death, paid the ultimate penalty for the sins of humanity. And by his resurrection, witnessed by many, Jesus extends to mankind the hope of salvation – reconciliation with God the Father and Almighty Creator.

In writing this music, Haydn was inspired by scripture texts from the four gospels. This work is a passionate, highly personal outpouring of Haydn's own faith.

As you listen to the seven sayings of Jesus on the cross, uttered in agony, know also that these words offer comfort to our souls because he has "*borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.*"

# PROGRAMME

(The programme will proceed without intermission)

## Words of Welcome

<b>Stabat Mater</b> , P. 77, movement I	Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710–1736)
Steve Froese, countertenor; Edette Gagné, soprano	
<b>Requiem in c minor</b> , Lacrimosa	Luigi Cherubini (1760–1842)
<b>Christus factus est</b>	Anton Bruckner (1824–1869)
<b>Ave verum corpus</b> , K.618	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

## Introduction

<b>The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross</b>	Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)
Narration: Anthony Roper	
Solo Quartet: Catherine Crouch, Maria Golas, Steve Froese, Kevin Burke	
Orchestra: Ensemble Harmonia	

*Please hold your applause until after the concluding poem*

### Orchestral Introduction

1. Solo quartet: Father, forgive them ~ Chorus with soli: Lamb of God
2. Solo quartet: Verily, I say unto thee ~ Chorus with soli: Lord, Have Mercy
3. Solo quartet: Woman behold thy son ~ Chorus with soli: Daughters weep not
4. Solo quartet: *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani* ~ Chorus with soli: O my God, look upon me

### Orchestral Intermezzo

5. Chorus with soli: I thirst
6. Solo quartet: It is finished ~ Chorus with soli: It is finished
7. Solo quartet: Father, into thy hands ~ Chorus with soli: Into thy hands, O Lord
8. Chorus: The Earthquake

Excerpts from Malcolm Guite's **Sonnet on The Seven Last Words of Christ**

## **Vivaldi Chamber Choir**

### **Sopranos**

Catherine Crouch\*; Yasmine Bia;  
Susie Britnell; Arianna Cheveldave  
Winnie Gibson; Denise Gilbert;  
Mary Leigh-Warden<sup>§†</sup>; Sarah Little;  
Samantha Merz; Freda Miller;  
Andrea Teigelhoefer; Jessica Wright

### **Altos**

Maria Golas\*; Margaret Archibald<sup>†</sup>;  
Aria Appleton<sup>†</sup>; Sarah Ebert;  
Bev Ferguson; Joan Fitzpatrick;  
Allison Kvern; Karen Millard;  
Eve Munns

### **Tenors**

Steve Froese\*; David Kaplan<sup>†</sup>;  
Jorge Vega;  
Martin Wilson\*; Ray Horst<sup>‡</sup>

### **Basses**

Kevin Burke\*; Tyler Enns;  
Aaron Lau; Michael Loo;  
David Millard<sup>†</sup>; Mike Millard;  
Peter Munns; Jim Peers

**Collaborative Pianist and Répétiteur for this programme:** Barry Yamanouchi

§Administrative Assistant; \*Section Lead; †On Leave; ‡Guest

## **Ensemble Harmonia**

### **Violin I**

Michelle Gao  
Hyeyoun Lee  
Catie Akune  
CJ Kanjilal  
David Clark

### **Violin II**

Kate Akhurst  
Ken Lee  
Rachel Kwok  
Oxana Marmer  
Ray Kang

### **Viola**

Tony Lee  
Mark Jackson  
Bruce Irschick

### **Cello**

Hey Woun Hyun  
Soeyeon Choi  
Lyla Lee

### **Bass**

Daniel Camargo

## Ensemble Harmonia

Harmonia is a string chamber ensemble based in Vancouver, BC. The group originated 16 years ago when founder Tony Lee invited a small group of musician friends to play string orchestral music in his living room. Since then, Harmonia has grown to about 16-20 players with resident conductor Nick Urquhart and concertmaster Dominic Woo.

Harmonia's focus is on performing many of the great string works that are rarely heard in concert halls today. Orchestra members come from many walks of life - professionals, businessmen, teachers and retirees. All are advanced performers of their respective instruments and dedicated to the joy of making wonderful music together.

Over the years, Harmonia has performed numerous fund-raising concerts for charities, retirement residences and hospitals. Harmonia has performed at Taiwanfest over the past three years, and also played the Lunar New Year 2022 and 2023 concerts at the Orpheum Theatre.



### Anthony (Tony) Roper – Narrator.



Tony is a long-time member of the Vancouver Bach Family of Choirs and is currently singing with their Symphonic and Cantabile Choirs. He has created a varied list of characters on local stages, such as Baron Zeta in “Merry Widow” and the Wolf in “Into the Woods,” both with North Shore Light Opera, and most recently as The Duke of Plaza Toro in “The Gondoliers,” with Fraser Valley Stage. He is President of Vancouver Westcoast Music Society, (VWMS) which has a mandate of supporting young BC musicians in all classical music disciplines with Scholarships, Bursaries and performance opportunities. Tony sings regularly with West Vancouver’s “Londoners.” (Photo: Diamond’s Edge Photography)

### Our Thanks

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Audio Technician: Susana Valente

## Translations of the Latin Texts

### Stabat Mater Dolorosa

The Mother stood mournful and weeping at the cross upon which hung her Son.

### Lacrimosa Dies Illa

Oh, how tearful the day on which the guilty shall rise from the ashes to be judged. Spare them, therefore, O God.

Merciful Lord Jesus, grant them eternal rest. Amen.

### Christus Factus Est

Christ was made obedient for us unto death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God has exalted him and given him a Name which is above all names.

### Ave Verum Corpus

Hail, True Body, born of the Virgin Mary, who, truly suffering, was sacrificed on the Cross for humanity.

From whose pierced side flowed water and blood. Be for us a foretaste of heaven at the final reckoning.

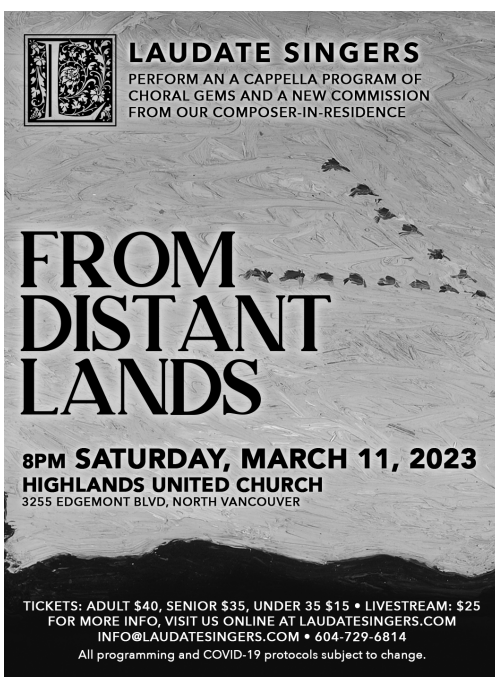
## Our 2022–2023 Season Finale

What's OPERA, Doc? Highlights from the opera stage, with guest soloists.

Saturday, June 10, 2023; Pacific Spirit United Church, 7:30 p.m.

Please find further choir details on our website, [www.vivaldichoir.org](http://www.vivaldichoir.org)

### Other programmes of interest:

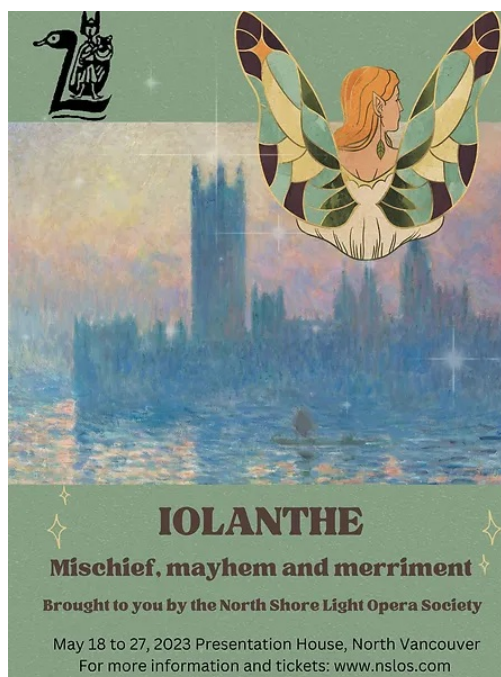


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