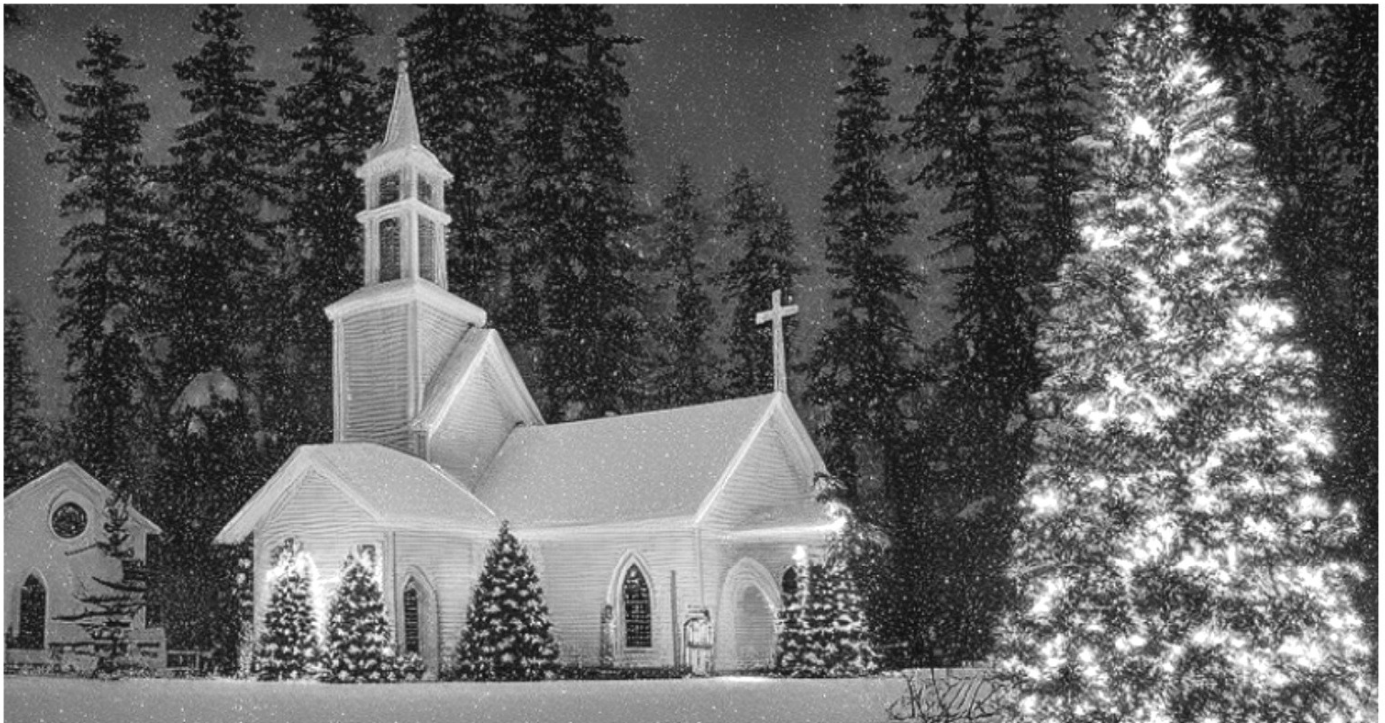




SATURDAY
DECEMBER 2, 2023
3:00 PM



Christmas Around the World

Artistic Director **Edette Gagné**

Collaborative Pianist **Barry Yamanouchi**

WEST POINT GREY UNITED CHURCH

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VIVALDI CHAMBER CHOIR

Edette Gagné Artistic Director and Conductor

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

A Message from Artistic Director Edette Gagné

The only thing that gives me greater joy than Christmas music is discovering hidden gems and finding new, thrilling, unique adaptations of music that I know and love. Creating today's concert was an absolute joy, and bringing it to life with these incredible people has been inspiring.

Leaning into some choral favourites like "Es ist ein Ros", "What Sweeter Music" and "Ding Dong! Merrily on High" feels like coming home after a long journey. The music is comforting in its familiarity and beauty, and that is a wonderful thing to celebrate.

Many of us were also deeply moved by "Masters in This Hall", but for a very different reason. When we were unable to sing together (thanks to a certain pandemic), this particular carol was one of our digital creations for *Home For Christmas*. Revisiting it for this show was particularly special.

Discovering works like the Spanish and Latvian carols and the New Zealand Advent Triptych was the icing on my artistic cake. Exploring and experiencing this insanely beautiful music has been magical. I am deeply grateful to Jorge Vega for guiding us through the Spanish carols, and David Millard for his assistance with Latvian pronunciation.

Then the unexpected... If you are reading my message before the show, take this as advice to "expect the unexpected" and save singing along for our reception (which I really hope you will attend). From Darmon Meader's jazzy treatment of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" through an entirely fresh setting of "There is No Rose of Such Virtue" to our closing songs (which are brilliantly not the ones we all know) these settings are a breath of fresh air.

I hope that *Christmas Around the World* inspires you to explore the unexpected and embrace the beauty around you. The rest of our season is going to be extraordinary. I look forward to seeing you for *We Sing as One* (elevating the voices of Queer composers - historical and living) and *¡Cantamos!* (celebrating the music of Argentina).

PROGRAMME

Words of Welcome ~ Edette Gagné

Appalachia

I Wonder as I Wander traditional Appalachian carol, arranged John Rutter
solo: Arianna Cheveldave

United Kingdom

What Sweeter Music John Rutter
Carol From an Irish Cabin Dale Wood
Nowell and Nowell! a reconstructed early version of *The First Nowell* arr. David Millard
recorders: Karen Millard and Mike Millard
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 13th century plainsong, arranged Darmon Meader

Spain

A la Nanita Nana arranged Ed Henderson
solo: Steve Froese
Esta noche nace un Niño arranged Andrew Carter (from *Two Spanish Carols*)
solo: Catherine Crouch
Dadme albricias, hijos d'Eva 16th century *Villancico de Navidad*, edited Noah Greenberg

Latvia

Three Latvian Carols Andrejs Jansons
1. Ziemassvētku nakts ~ Christmas Night
2. Meklētāja celš ~ The Christmas Rose
3. Ai, nama māmiņa ~ The Christmas Season

New Zealand

New Zealand Advent Triptych ~ *first movement* Christopher Marshall

Europe

There is No Rose of Such Virtue Robert H. Young
Es ist ein Ros entsprungen Michael Praetorius

France

Masters in This Hall French carol, arranged Alice Parker and Robert Shaw
Patapan Burgundian carol, arranged Ed Lojeski
flute: Aaron Lau
Ding Dong! Merrily on High French carol, arranged David Willcocks

Puerto Rico

The Three Kings of Orient

Puerto Rican carol, arranged Samuel L. Forcucci

North America

Silver Bells

Jay Livingston and Ray Evans, arranged Kevin Robinson

Jingle Bells

James Pierpont, arranged Jack Gold and Marty Paich

Choral Adaptation by Mark Hayes

🎄 Please join us in the hall for refreshments and a carol sing-along 🎄

The Choir

Sopranos

Michelle Arduini; Yasmine Bia;
Susie Britnell; Arianna Cheveldave;
Catherine Crouch^{*}; Winnie Gibson[†];
Denise Gilbert; Alice Hobadam;
Sarah Little; Freda Miller

Altos

Margaret Archibald; Jules Blakemore;
Rosalind Coulson; Bev Ferguson;
Joan Fitzpatrick; Maria Golas^{*};
Allison Kvern; Samantha Merz;
Karen Millard; Eve Munns;
Cheryl Thomas

Tenors

Steve Froese^{*}; Ray Horst[‡];
Matthew Hunter; Curtis Umpherville[†];
Jorge Vega

Basses

Aaron Lau; Michael Loo;
David Millard; Mike Millard;
Peter Munns; Jim Peers[†];
Philip Wing^{*}

^{*}Section Lead; [†]On Leave; [‡]Guest

Collaborative Pianist: Barry Yamanouchi

Artistic Director: Edette Gagné

Administrative Assistant: Mary Leigh Warden

Our Thanks

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Volunteer Board members: Jim Peers, *President*; Susie Britnell, *Vice President*; Esther Tsang, *Treasurer*; Allison Kvern, *Secretary*; Karen Millard, Mike Millard, Sarah Little, Peter Munns, Denise Gilbert, Arianna Cheveldave, *Directors at Large*
Eve Munns, Choir Librarian
David Millard, Programme Design/Layout
Croy Jenkins, Event Manager
Kevin Zakresky, Music Director, St. Titus Anglican Church

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¡Cantamos!

Highlighting the music of Argentina

Saturday June 15, 2024
Pacific Spirit United Church

For further information – www.vivaldichoir.org

Translations

A La Nanita Nana

Lullaby, lulla-lullaby, lullaby, lulla-lullaby.

Jesus is sleeping, blessed be. Angels sing of the star in the heavens; Come, Kings and shepherds, to the gate of Bethlehem, Come and adore him, the child in the crib.

Praise the coming of a child Redeemer who has been born in Bethlehem, the Saviour of the World. Sleep, oh sleep, child in the crib.

There he sleeps in his manger, the Redeemer, the miraculous Messiah, the Infant God. Come and adore him, the child in the manger.

Spanish Carol

Tonight, a child is born amid the frost and ice. Who could clothe you in velvet, my child?

Rejoice, rejoice, what delight. This night a child is born at the gate of Bethlehem.

The Virgin washes him with a little soap.

His hands are itching; hands of my heart.

Rejoice...

Dadme Albricias, hijos d'Eva

Reward my tidings, children of Eve!

Tell us, why should we do that?

Because the new Adam has been born.

Oh, Son of God, what tidings!

Grant my reward and be joyful

for tonight is born

the promised Messiah,

God and man, born of a woman.

And his birth has redeemed us

from sin and from its pain,

for the new Adam is born.

Oh, Son of God, what tidings!

Three Latvian Carols

I. Ziemassvētku nakts ~ Christmas Night

Already the light shadows sway, the fir-tree tower darkens blue. And in the deep snow drifts the meadow, fields, and heather rest.

Only a small bell jingles somewhere within the forest: perhaps, on that holy night some traveller is headed home.

Through sleeping gardens blanketed by soft snow, behind snow-covered windows, someone burns bright candles.

A white road winds through the darkness, and far away a star blinks—someone with warm, loving hands spreads blessings over the earth.

II. Meklētāja ceļš ~ The Christmas Rose

The seeker's path has ended; evening falls; I have walked far. In the foreign white winter land dawn's rosy blossom unfolds.

Does the Christmas rose bloom in heaven's garden? My eyes drink their fill of the wondrous colourful glow.

My heavenly rose, tended by a mother's gentle hand: the beautiful light of childhood, the wonderful message of Christ.

I know also that in your heart Christ's rose blooms tonight. And you go out in the wintery field to listen to the stars sing!

III. Ai, nama māmiņa ~ The Christmas Season

Oh, Mistress of the house, let me inside. Mummers have arrived with little wagons. Hide the awls, hide the brushes, the crowds of mummers are greedy folks.

I won't steal your awls or needles. I'll steal your brush, that I need to brush the mummer children's heads.

Kaladū, kaladū (alms, alms).

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

A rosebush has sprung up from a tender root, as the ancients sang to us. This selfsame plant came out of Jesse and has brought forth a bloom in the cold winter, in the dead of night.

The rose I have in mind, of which Isaiah spoke, brought forth for us Mary the pure maiden. According to God's eternal word, she gave birth to a child while remaining a pure maiden.

So let us all sing 'Amen', that is: 'let that which we all together desire be true'. O Jesus, help us come into your Father's realm. Therein we would praise you: O God, grant us this thing!

Translations by David Millard, except **Three Latvian Carols**, translated by Elsie Thomas, used by permission.



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