



SATURDAY
MARCH 2, 2024
7:30 PM



We Sing as One

Artistic Director **Edette Gagné**

Collaborative Pianist **Barry Yamanouchi**

PACIFIC SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH

2195 W 45TH AVE. • VANCOUVER, BC

A Message from Edette Gagné

This is a very special concert on many levels. We honour and celebrate the 2SLGBTQIA+ community by sharing incredible music composed and arranged by members of the Queer community, and by sharing the words, emotions and history that are part of the community's humanity.

Historically, we know that some composers were very open about being Queer. Benjamin Britten wrote songs for his life partner, Sir Peter Pears. Poulenc was one of the first openly gay composers, who inscribed a copy of his *Concert champêtre* to Richard Chanlaire: the "sunshine of his thirty years." Cole Porter married, but his wife did not mind her husband being gay - as long as he was discreet. Barber made no effort to keep his homosexuality out of explicit view, nor did his life partner composer Gian Carlo Menotti. Leonard Bernstein - who attended the Curtis Institute with Barber and Menotti was openly gay, though he married an actress to satisfy the then conservative orchestra boards who employed him as a music director.

Historically, some were not... Tchaikovsky was gay at a time that it was illegal in Russia - his disastrous marriage was meant to quell the rumours about his love life. Saint-Saëns lived similarly; however, his post-marriage life featured soirées where he often performed in drag. Corelli and Handel moved in the same sexually-fluid circles. Lully was known for embarking on affairs with both men and women. Copland was fiercely private, but openly traveled with men and had an intimate relationship with the artist Prentiss Taylor, as revealed in unearthed letters.

We are fortunate to live in a time and place where people can safely and legally choose to identify themselves as Queer. There are still many, many places where Shane Raman could not have dedicated "Love Partakes of the Soul Itself" to Adam Dickson and have it premiered at their wedding.

The group of pieces after intermission deserves to be explored here. In the words of the composer, *"Can You Hear Me?"* was written as a song lyric exploring the coming out process. The intent is to unpack the feelings of mixed anxiety and hope inherent in the attempt to understand and express oneself fully at this vulnerable time. Rather

than making an explicitly queer statement, the song offers an invitation to understanding which is open to anyone who has ever felt isolated, misunderstood, or both hopeful about and frightened of love.

"The Letter" is the final movement from "I am like many." The larger work, in the composer's words, [was] *the result of a unique commission from Senate House Library in London, which tasked [him] with setting something from their current exhibition of queer texts. Upon perusing their materials, it seemed to [him] that everything centred around a single moment in time: the Parliamentary debates on the Wolfenden Report in 1958, representing the first significant (if initially unsuccessful) steps towards the legalization of homosexuality in Britain.* The opening solo's poignant words are "People have no idea of the life we live, the life of fear and dread."

I am ever hopeful for humanity. Hopeful that "Somewhere" there's a place for all of us - to be and to love, because we are all beautifully human and *love is love*. I believe that we will come to a day where we can confidently show our "True Colors" - living authentically and embracing all of who we are.

Our concert ends with a celebration of some of the gay icons of the pop world - because what would a show like this be without including Cyndi Lauper, Sir Elton John and Freddie Mercury? Our closing number might be new to some of our younger audience members... unless you are part of the Queer community, in which case it is one of our favourite "anthems".

Far beyond identifying as Queer, what these historic and living composers share is a deep gift for creating music that can touch our hearts. The music we are performing for you is achingly beautiful and brilliantly crafted. Vivaldi Chamber Choir is honoured to perform works by eight living, openly queer composers, including Two-Spirit composer Linthicum-Blackhorse, and we are thrilled to have some of our featured composers in the audience tonight.

We look forward to celebrating another part of our collective humanity on June 15th when we will perform an entire concert of Argentinian music. Hope you can join us for ¡Cantamos! here at Pacific Spirit United Church.

VIVALDI CHAMBER CHOIR

We Sing As One

Edette Gagné, Artistic Director and Conductor

Barry Yamanouchi, Collaborative Pianist

Bruce Henczel, Guest Percussionist

Pacific Spirit United Church, Vancouver British Columbia; March 2, 2024

PROGRAMME

WORDS OF WELCOME

From This Hour, Freedom! Stephen Smith 🍁 (b. 1966) poetry by Walt Whitman

Forest Song Stuart Beatch 🍁 (b.1991) poetry by Oliver Goldsmith

Calme des nuits, opus 68, no.1 Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Stillness of the night, cool of the evening, vast shimmering of the spheres, Great silence of black vaults deep thinkers delight in you. The bright sun, merriment and noises amuse the frivolous; Only the poet is possessed by the love of quiet things.

Love Partakes of the Soul Itself Shane Raman 🍁 (b.1978) lyrics by Victor Hugo
dedicated to Adam Dickson on the day of their wedding - 1.10.16

Sure on This Shining Night Samuel Barber (1910-1981) poetry by James Agee
choral setting by the composer of the solo song opus 13, no.3

Dance to Your Shadow Traditional Scottish, arranged by Leslie Uyeda 🍁

Vinea mea electa Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)
no. 2 of Four Penitential Songs - Quatre motets pour un temps de pénitence

Oh vineyard, my chosen one. I planted thee. How is thy sweetness turned into bitterness, to crucify me and take Barabbas in my place? I protected thee; I took the hard stones away from thy path, and built a tower in thy defence.

Thou Inward Stranger Whom I have Never Seen no. 3 from "Songs of Ecstasy"
Gwyneth Walker (b.1947) poetry by Thomas Merton

Chante Waste Hokshila

Traditional Lakota lullaby
arranged by William Linthicum-Blackhorse (b.1989)

I have brought you here, so that I can speak to you in your language. I am speaking
to you in your language. My kind-hearted boy I beg you to fall asleep. The night is good.
I am speaking your language.

À la claire fontaine

Traditional Québec Folk Song arranged by Stephen Smith ❁

By the clear spring as I was walking, I found the water so beautiful that I bathed myself.
I dried myself off under the leaves of an oak. On the highest branch, the nightingale sang.
Sing, nightingale, sing, you who have such a happy heart.
You have a heart for laughing; my heart is for crying.
Refrain: I have loved you for a long time. I will never forget you.

Ching-a-ring Chaw

Minstrel Song arranged by Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

INTERMISSION

Can You Hear Me?

Catherine Laub ❁ (b.1979)

The Letter

Stuart Beatch ❁
anonymous text adapted by the composer - the 4th movement of "I am like many"
soloist: Allison Kvern (they/them)

Somewhere - from "West Side Story"

arranged by Robert Edgerton
music by Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) lyrics by Stephen Sondheim (1930-2021)

True Colors

arranged by Saunder Choi (b.1988)
words and music by Billy Steinberg and Tom Kelly - additional lyrics by Saunder Choi
popularized by Cindi Lauper
soloists: Sarah Little, Steve Froese, Catherine Allaire

Wunderbar - from "Kiss Me Kate"

Cole Porter (1891-1964) arranged by William Stickles

Something's Coming/Tonight - from "West Side Story"

arranged by Ed Lojeski
music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

I'm Still Standing

Elton John and Bernie Taupin, arranged by Pete Schmutte

Bohemian Rhapsody

Freddie Mercury, arranged by Stephen Robb
used with permission from the Richmond Orchestra and Chorus Association

It's Raining Men

Words and Music by Paul Jabara and Paul Schaffer ❁ (b.1949)
arranged by Stephen Smith
premiered by Out in Harmony on January 27, 2024

The Choir

Sopranos

Michelle Arduini; Yasmine Bia;
Susie Britnell; Arianna Cheveldave;
Catherine Crouch*; Winnie Gibson;
Denise Gilbert; Alice Hobadam;
Sarah Little

Tenors

Mikey Enriquez; Steve Froese*;
Matthew Hunter; Curtis Umpherville
Jorge Vega;

Altos

Catherine Allaire; Margaret Archibald;
Ros Coulson; Joan Fitzpatrick;
Allison Kvern; Karen Millard;
Samantha Merz; Eve Munns

Basses

Aaron Lau; Mike Millard;
Peter Munns; Jim Peers;
Philip Wing*

*Section Lead;

On Leave

Jules Blakemore; Sarah Ebert; Maria Golas*; Bev Ferguson;
Michael Loo; David Millard; Freda Miller; Cheryl Thomas

Artistic Director: Edette Gagné

Collaborative Pianist: Barry Yamanouchi

Administrative Assistant: Mary Leigh Warden

Our Thanks

Season Sponsor: Point Grey Pharmacy

The Government of British Columbia



Linden Singers of Victoria; Brigid Coult and the Richmond Orchestra and Chorus Association;
Out in Harmony – for the loan of music for this concert.



The Deux Mille Foundation whose generous grant made it possible for us to purchase 10 compositions from living Queer composers.

Conrad Carsten-Krebs; Dr. Andrew Seebaran; West Point Grey Time Co.; InPrint Graphics; K&K Petfoods, Dunbar; Nigel Fitzpatrick; Peter and Eve Munns; Margaret Froese; Kathie Poole; Anthony Roper; Linda Noble; David and Truus Clark; Hooked on Fish; Sarah Ebert; David Kaplan; Freda Miller; Jim Peers; Sarah Little; Croy Jenkins; Edette Gagné; Mary Leigh-Warden

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
Eve Munns, Choir Librarian
Croy Jenkins, Event Manager
Kevin Zakresky, Music Director, St. Titus Anglican Church

Join us for:



¡Cantamos!

Celebrating the music of Argentina

Saturday June 15, 2024

Pacific Spirit United Church

Please find further choir details on our website, www.vivaldichoira.org

Other programmes of interest:



 **VANCOUVER
WELSH MEN'S CHOIR**

OUR HEARTS IN THE HIGHLANDS

Saturday, March 16th 2024 7:30pm
Christ Church Cathedral, 690 Burrard St., Vancouver, BC

Adults/Seniors \$35 / Youth (under 18) \$10
More information at vancouverchoir.ca or leave us a message at 604.878.1190

 **CELTICFEST
VANCOUVER 2024**

Pirates of Penzance



Directed by Robin Hahn
Music Direction by Edette Gagné

WILDLY talented cast and chorus
accompanied by chamber orchestra

May 16 - 18 and May 23 - 25 at 7:30PM

May 19 and May 26 at 3:00PM

Presentation House Theatre, North Vancouver

Tickets available soon...

For more information, visit nslos.com

...the most fun you'll have on dry land!



LAUDATE SINGERS SOCIETY
LAUDATE SINGERS WITH GUEST CLASSICAL GUITARIST STANTON JACK
LARS KAARIO, CONDUCTOR

Passion: Romancero Gitano

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024 • 3PM
WEST VANCOUVER UNITED CHURCH
2062 ESQUIMALT AVE, WEST VANCOUVER

SCINTILLATING MUSIC FEATURING CASTELNUOVO-TEDESCO'S
ROMANCERO GITANO AND A NEW COMMISSION
TICKETS: ADULT \$40 • SENIOR \$35 • UNDER 35 \$10 • LIVESTREAM \$20
FOR MORE INFO, VISIT US AT LAUDATESINGERS.COM
INFO@LAUDATESINGERS.COM • 604-729-6814



BRITISH COLUMBIA
Canada Council for the Arts / Conseil des arts du Canada
Recreation & Culture
westvancouver
north shore news
CONTACT



OUT IN HARMONY
SUPPORTING THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY THROUGH MUSIC

COLOURFUL

SAT. JUNE 22, 2024 7:30PM
DOORS OPEN 7:00PM

JOIN US IN CONCERT!
VANCOUVER'S GAY, BI, TRANS, QUEER, LESBIAN & FRIENDS CHOIR

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER
949 W 49TH AVE (AT OAK)

BUY YOUR TICKETS:

- PAPER IN ADVANCE FROM MEMBERS
- ONLINE THROUGH EVENTBRITE
- OR AT THE DOOR

NO ONE TURNED AWAY FOR LACK OF FUNDS :)

EDETTE GAGNÉ - MUSIC DIRECTOR
ELLIOTT DAINOW - PIANIST

SCENT FREE VENUE
WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE




RICHMOND ORCHESTRA & CHORUS ASSOCIATION

Conductor's Choice

Celebrating Brigid Coult's
30th Season with ROCA

April 6, 2024
7:30 pm

Fraserview Church
11295 Mellis Drive - Richmond, BC

ROCA.CA



legendswhistler.com | 1.866.385.0611

Nestled at the base of Whistler Mountain just steps away from the Creekside Gondola, Legends Whistler is ideally located for your next mountain escape and perfectly suited to host families and groups of all sizes.

With this exclusive offer for British Columbia residents, you can enjoy a minimum 5% off the best available room only rate. Enjoy the quiet side of Whistler in Creekside and take your group or special event to a whole new level.

Visit us online or call to speak to one of our expert travel Consultants and start planning your mountain adventure today.

Bombay Masala

INDIAN RESTAURANT

4473 West 10th Ave
Vancouver, BC

604-224-1111
Order ONLINE
www.BombayMasala.ca

Stong's
MARKET

**YOUR LOCAL VANCOUVER
GROCERY STORE**

Family owned & operated since 1931

DUNBAR & 27TH

**GO! PHYSIOTHERAPY
SPORTS + WELLNESS CENTRE**

- musician injuries
- arthritis
- knee and hip replacements
- sports injuries
- post-surgical rehab
- cancer rehab
- concussions and dizziness
- intra-muscular stimulation

- West 16th and Dunbar
- 604 568 4628
- go@gophysiotherapy.ca
- www.gophysiotherapy.ca

PATRICIA RUPNOW

Optometrist

T 604 224 2322 F 604 224 2306

4357 West 10th Avenue Vancouver – BC – V6R 2H6

info@west10theyes.com

www.west10theyes.com

west 10th eyes

DOCTORS OF OPTOMETRY | EYEWEAR BOUTIQUE

Mention this ad for a \$50 discount on Rx Eyewear

BRENDAN CONNOLLY



Proudly guiding my clients to achieve their real estate aspirations since 2005

604-833-8793

www.brendan.realtor

hello@brendan.realtor



RE/MAX Crest Realty
Each office independently owned and operated.

PROFESSIONALISM. INTEGRITY. HONESTY.



TAPESTRY MUSIC

BC Family Owned and Operated since 1996



4440 West 10th Ave, Vancouver, BC
T (604) 736-3036 TF 1 (888) 688-4122

Shop Tapestry in Vancouver, Victoria
and White Rock or online at
www.tapestrymusic.com

WHERE

THE MUSIC

BEGINS

 **Long & McQuade**
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS 

Proud Sponsor of the Vivaldi Chamber Choir!

LONG & MCQUADE VANCOUVER

368 Terminal Avenue / ☎ 604.734.4886

To find a location nearest you or to shop online, visit us at www.long-mcquade.com