



SUNDAY
DECEMBER 14, 2025
3:00 PM



Echoes of December

Including sing-along

Artistic Director **Edette Gagné**

Collaborative Pianist **Karen Lee-Morlang**

WEST POINT GREY UNITED CHURCH

Vivaldi Chamber Choir

Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 3PM

Artistic Director: Edette Gagné
Collaborative Pianist: Karen Lee-Morlang

Message from the Artistic Director – Edette Gagné

It is an honour to be launching my eleventh season with Vivaldi Chamber Choir with this shimmering concert that features all four of our section leads and our brilliant collaborative pianist (who also joins our alto section for the cappella works).

Each year we ask the members of this choir how we can improve artistically and as a community. The members of this choir make it easy for me to continually strive for excellence and today's concert programme reflects their input and their passion.

We wanted a longer work to be the centerpiece of today's show - and I found the only sacred choral work completed by Ottorino Respighi, who is best known for his orchestral "Roman Trilogy" (*The Pines of Rome* is a personal favourite of mine). Originally scored for woodwinds, percussion and four-hands piano, Karen Lee-Morlang steps in beautifully as our ten-fingered orchestra - and our leads and choir bring you into a world Respighi described as having: "a very beautiful harmonic quality of some of these [Gregorian chant] modes, which possess a richness incomparably greater than the more modern scale."

We also have two new featured ensembles in each of our concerts this season: a small ensemble, with our amazing leads joined by singers from their sections - and our inaugural performance by our Emeritus Singers. These singers have dedicated their talents to Vivaldi Chamber Choir over the years but are no longer able to sing with us full-time. Our Emeritus Singers will join us for the last two selections of each concert.

I hope that "*Echoes of December*" transports you and touches your hearts the way it does for us performing today. We hope to see you again for "*Earth-Heart-Sky*" in March and "*Home*" in June - where we will continue to amplify the voices of composers from Canada and around the world.

PROGRAMME

Christus Natus Est

Music by Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)
Words by Countee Cullen (1903-1946)

Words of Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Cantique de Jean Racine, opus 11

Music by Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
Words by Jean Racine (1639-1699)
Edited by John Rutter

O Nata Lux

Music by Christopher Ducasse (b. 1993)

Lauda per la Natività del Signore

Music by Ottorino Respighi (1879-1936)
Text attributed to Friar Jacopone da Todi (1230-1306)

Soloists: L'angelo - Olivia Selig, Maria - Dinah Ayre, Il pastore - Steve Froese
Chorus of angels and shepherds: Vivaldi Chamber Choir

What Sweeter Music

Music by John Rutter (b. 1945)
Words by Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

Silver Bells

Words and music by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans
Arranged by Kevin Robinson (1961)

❁ Solstice Carol

Words and music by Kim Baryluk (b.1959)
Arranged by Scott Reimer

~~~~~ small ensemble for Echoes of December ~~~~~

Deck the Hall

Traditional carol, arranged by Jocelyn Hagen (1980)  
Original English poetry - Thomas Oliphant (1862)

~~~~~ small ensemble for Echoes of December ~~~~~

❁ Go Tell It!

Traditional spiritual, arranged by Kathryn Parrotta (1981)

Soloist: Jack Foster

Please welcome our Emeritus Singers to the stage.

❁ When Christmas Comes

Joanna Schwartz (b. 1951)
Arranged by Larry Nickel (1952)

❁ Song For a Winter's Night

Words & music Gordon Lightfoot (1938-2023)
Arranged by Robin Salkeld (b. 1983)

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

Vivaldi Chamber Choir

Edette Gagné, Artistic Director
Karen Lee-Morlang, Collaborative Pianist
Miriam Davidson, Administrative Assistant

Sopranos

Yasmine Bia
Susie Britnell
Arianna Cheveldave
Cara Elrod
Winnie Gibson
Denise Gilbert
Sarah Lamont
Sarah Little
Rebecca Citlali Nichols
Olivia Selig *

Altos

Dinah Ayre *
Margaret Archibald
Michelle Arduini
Roz Coulson
Sarah Ebert
Bev Ferguson
Joan Fitzpatrick
Bri Lefever
Angel Liu
Samantha Merz
Karen Millard
Freda Miller
Eve Munns
Cheryl Thomas

Tenors

Jeff Carmichael
Matt Emery
Steve Froese *
Jordan Hiller
David Kaplan
Jorge Vega

Basses

Richard Cunningham
Jack Foster *
Jeremy Hay
Al Kvern
Aaron Lau
Michael Loo
Mike Millard
Peter Munns

* Section Lead

On leave

Al Kvern

Emeritus Singers

Matthew Hunter
Chris Umpherville (on leave)

TRANSLATIONS

Cantique de Jean Racine

A French translation of a Latin hymn for Tuesday matins from the breviary, *Concors paterni luminis*:

Word of the Highest, our only hope, Eternal day of earth and the heavens,
We break the silence of the peaceful night; Saviour Divine, cast your eyes upon us!
Pour on us the fire of your powerful grace, That all hell may flee at the sound of your voice;
Banish the slumber of a weary soul, That brings forgetfulness of your laws!
O Christ, look with favour upon your faithful people now gathered here to praise you;
Receive their hymns offered to your immortal glory; May they go forth filled with your gifts.

O Nata Lux

Oh Light born of Light, Jesus Redeemer of the world,
With loving kindness deign to receive suppliant praise and prayer.
Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost,
Grant us to be members of thy blessed body.
Amen

Lauda per la Natività del Signore

Angel: Fear not, you shepherds abiding yonder upon the hills, you shepherds of Judea. Raise your eyes and behold me: I am the angel of eternal glory. I am the messenger holy and I bring you good tidings of great joy. This day is born the little Jesus, the Son of God, that all may rejoice in salvation.

Chorus: And this Child, pure and holy, sent by the Lord against evil to battle, lies in a stable lowly within a manger among the sheep and the cattle. To shield Him from the breezes, Mary in bands of linen gently bound Him; His blanket, the hay around Him. Thus has He come down to earth, blessed Jesus.

Angel and Chorus: Fear not, you shepherds abiding yonder upon the hills, you shepherds of Judea. Raise your voice and be glad. Joy to mankind, I am the angel of hosts.

Chorus: And this Child, pure and holy, sent by the Father lies in a stable within a manger bed lowly.

The Shepherd: O Lord, Thou hast descended to earth from heaven, angels sang in chorus. Thou must be sore offended to lie thus in a stable rude here before us.

Mary: My child, sweet is your slumber. Though You must lie poor here in a manger, bright angels without number hover around you, guarding You from danger. My son, with what affection I gaze upon You! Filled with awe on Your birth I ponder! Beholding Your perfection, I forget thoughts of poverty and longing. My heart is filled with gladness. Great joy accompanies Your birth. Promise and hope for mankind come from You, Child of wonder!

Chorus: O fountain of joy eternal, lying upon the hay here we behold You, here we behold You.

Mary (with Chorus): How blest am I who bore You! Alas, how poor the arms which now enfold You. As Lord we worship and adore You. You have descended from on high to save us. Though poorly we now receive Him, though naked He lies in the hay it will not grieve Him. Our belief in Him will then transport us all.

Chorus (with Mary): Take our cloaks for the Baby. Blessed Mary, that sheltered thus He may be. Our flocks unguarded stand, we cannot tarry. Now no longer care we for the cold: we have beheld Him, the Infant Jesus.

Chorus: Praise to You, honor unto You, Yours be glory, Father in heaven, God Almighty.

Chorus (Men): O Savior, of God begotten and born of a Virgin in humiliation, give light to every nation, that by man Your birth may never be forgotten.

Chorus: Happy would we hasten back to our hillsides and our flocks, could we but touch Him; yet dare not ask this favor. Unclean shepherds, we are fearful that we might smutch Him. Contented would we hasten back to our hills and flocks, could we but touch Him.

Mary: That you may go rejoicing, men of the fields, draw nearer and kneel before Him. Touch Him and adore Him. Now blessed by Him, go forth, your praises singing.

Chorus: Glory, praise and honor and glory to God. Glory, honor, and praise unto You, O Father almighty on high, etc. Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among all men of good will. To save the world from evil You came in pity, to save the world from sin You came in pity, for it was not Thy duty, O child of heavenly beauty. Laud we Your name, extol You, Lord of all majesty, Father everlasting.

Chorus (with Angel and Mary): Glory be to God in heaven. Peace on earth, good will toward all men of good will. Amen.

Angel (with Chorus and Mary): Glory be unto God in heaven. For born is the promised Messiah!

Mary (with Chorus and Angel): Upon me God bestowed His favor, and I shall cease to laud and praise Him never. I bore to men a Savior Who shall be King of earth and heaven for ever. I bow in humble devotion o'er the child Who has come to save us from error. No rose was ever fairer. His beauty fills my soul with pure emotion. My thoughts I cannot capture my spirit lifts in rapture it soars ever higher. Amen.

Enormous thanks to:

- Our volunteer board of directors who work tirelessly behind the scenes to help us achieve our musical dreams
- All the volunteers who assisted today with Front of House
- West Point Grey United Church and their staff
- Arianna Cheveldave - Choir Librarian and Rebecca Citlali Nichols - Librarian Assistant
- Miriam Davidson for programme design/layout
- Croy Jenkins - event manager
- Kevin Zakresky - Music Director, St. Titus Anglican Church
- Denise Gilbert for spearheading and overseeing our "Greased Lightning Fundraiser" in support of our future touring
- The Artistic Team of this choir, without whom Edette's visions could not come to life
- Every member of Vivaldi Chamber Choir (and their loved ones) for sharing their time and talents and love as part of our choir community
- Everyone who has purchased tickets, attended events and made donations – your support is invaluable to us

UPCOMING CONCERTS – 2026!



Earth - Heart - Sky - Saturday, March 21, 2026 @ 7:30 pm
Pacific Spirit United Church - 2195 W 45th Ave, Vancouver, BC
Tickets: www.vivaldichoir.org or call 778-862-5691

A thematic concert featuring music that links us with our land, hearts, and souls, including works by Indigenous and non-Indigenous living composers.



HOME - Saturday, June 13, 2026 @ 7:30 pm
Pacific Spirit United Church - 2195 W 45th Ave, Vancouver, BC
Tickets: www.vivaldichoir.org or call 778-862-5691

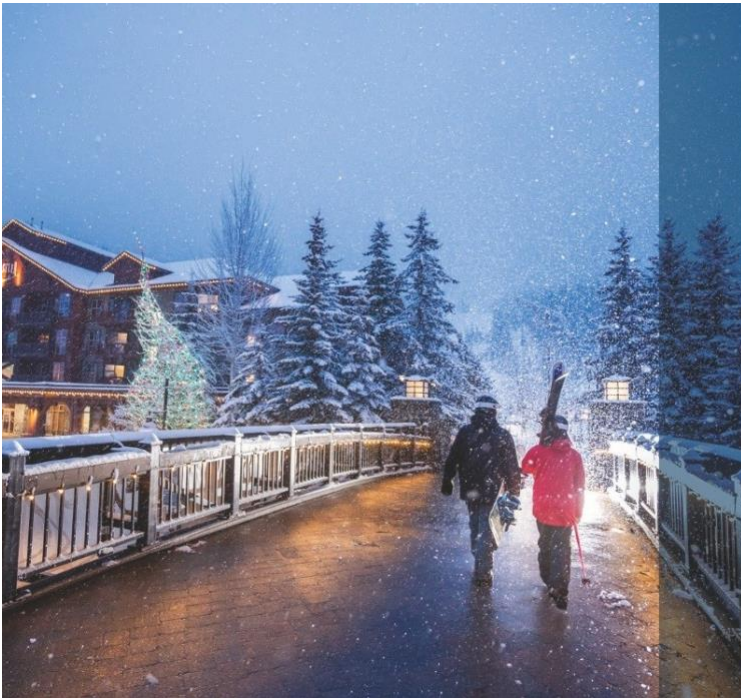
A musical exploration of the many meanings and emotions of “home”.

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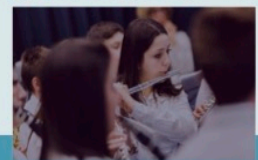
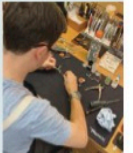


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We acknowledge the support of the BC Gaming Grant and the Deux Mille Foundation.

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Text from Traditional French carol; trans. vv. 1-3 attrib. James Chadwick, 1860; alt'd. Music (GLORIA) from traditional French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937.

Deck the Hall

1. Deck the hall with boughs of holly,
Fa la la la la, fa la la la.
'Tis the season to be jolly,
Fa la la la la, fa la la la.
Don we now our gay apparel,
Fa la la, fa la la, la la la.
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,
Fa la la la la, fa la la la.

2. See the blazing Yule before us,
Fa la la la la, fa la la la.
Strike the harp and join the chorus,
Fa la la la la, fa la la la.
Follow me in merry measure,
Fa la la, fa la la, la la la.
While I tell of Yuletide treasure,
Fa la la la la, fa la la la.

3. Fast away the old year passes,
Fa la la la la, fa la la la.
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,
Fa la la la la, fa la la la.
Sing we joyous all together,
Fa la la, fa la la, la la la.
Heedless of the wind and weather,
Fa la la la la, fa la la la.

Text by Thomas Oliphant, 1862; rev. *The Pennsylvania School Journal* (vol. 26, December 1877) and other sources. Music from a melody based on the traditional Welsh New Year carol "Nos Galan"; harm. Charles Wood, in *Cambridge Carol Book*, 1910 ed.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, th'incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Text by Charles Wesley, 1739; alt'd. Music (MENDELSSOHN) by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855. Final verse alt. arr. by David Willcocks, in *Carols for Choirs*; ©1961 Oxford University Press;

Jingle Bells

1. Dashing through the snow
in a one-horse open sleigh,
o'er the fields we go, laughing all the way.
Bells on bobtail ring, making spirits bright;
what fun it is to ride & sing a sleighing song tonight!

Jingle, bells! Jingle, bells! Jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!
Jingle, bells! Jingle, bells! Jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!

2. A day or two ago I thought I'd take a ride,
and soon Miss Fannie Bright was seated by my side.
The horse was lean & lank;
misfortune seemed his lot;
he got into a drifted bank, and we, we got upsot!

Jingle, bells! Jingle, bells! Jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!
Jingle, bells! Jingle, bells! Jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!

continues →

3. Now the ground is white, go it while you're young,
take a friend tonight, and sing this sleighing song!
Just get a bobtailed nag, twoforty for his speed,
then hitch him to an open sleigh,
and—Crack!—you'll take the lead!

Jingle, bells! Jingle, bells! Jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!
Jingle, bells! Jingle, bells! Jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!

Text and music by James Lord Pierpont, "The One Horse Open Sleigh", first pub. Oliver Ditson & Co., Boston, Mass., 1857. Arr. attrib. Allen L. Richardson, in *Sing We Now of Christmas*, pub. The Willis Music Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, 1951.

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heav'n & nature sing, and heav'n & nature sing,
and heaven and heaven and nature sing
2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text paraph. fr. Psalm 98:4-9 by Isaac Watts, 1739; alt'd. Music (ANTIOCH) attrib. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant,
O come ye, O come-- ye to Beth--lehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
6. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven-- above!
Glory to God--, in-- the-- highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
7. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee-- be-- glo--ry given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Text by John Francis Wade, circa 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841; alt'd. Music (ADESTE FIDELES) by John Francis Wade, circa 1743; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer

Oh, you know this one, don't ya?! Sing along!

Actually, it's for reasons of copyright caution that we're not reprinting the words of this mid-20th-century classic, written in 1949 by John David "Johnny" Marks (1909-1985), as it doesn't enter into the public domain here in Canada until 2055!

Silent Night, Holy Night

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lокkigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.*

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Saviour is born;
Christ the Saviour is born!"
3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text by Joseph Mohr, 1816; trans. John Freeman Young, 1863; alt'd. Music (STILLE NACHT) by Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818. Harm. composite.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

We wish you a merry Christmas, (3x)
and a happy New Year.
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin.
Good tidings for Christmas and a happy New Year.
Now bring us some figgy pudding, (3x)
and bring it right here.
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin.
Good tidings for Christmas and a happy New Year.
We won't go until we get some, (3x)
so bring it right here.
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin.
Good tidings for Christmas and a happy New Year.
We wish you a merry Christmas, (3x)
and a happy New Year.

Text and music from Traditional English West Country carol; arr. Andrew Sims, 2014; arr. © Choral Public Domain Library; arr. alt'd. by Matthew Emery, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 2025.