



**SATURDAY**  
**MARCH 21, 2026**  
**7:30 PM**



# Earth - Heart - Sky

*featuring works by Indigenous and non-Indigenous Composers*

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

**PACIFIC SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH**  
**VIVALDICHOIR.ORG**

# Vivaldi Chamber Choir

## Saturday March 21, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Artistic Director: Edette Gagné  
Collaborative Pianist: Karen Lee-Morlang  
Guest Violinist: Catie Akune

### Message from the Artistic Director – Edette Gagné

The music and the words of our featured Indigenous composers speak for themselves, so I would like to share a more personal message of the ways that creating this concert has changed me.

#### Unlearning and Learning.

Musically, this programme has given me, as a settler musician, an opportunity to experience the process of unlearning and learning which is at the heart of true allyship and reconciliation. Exploring different meanings of the aurora, the stars and the earth has taken us far beyond the notes on the page. The journey to this performance has given both myself and the members of Vivaldi Chamber Choir an opportunity to support, amplify and show our appreciation for the Indigenous creative community. It has been humbling.

#### Interconnection.

This word is at the epicentre of today's concert "Earth-Heart-Sky." Our interconnection with the earth - the interconnections between each of our hearts - and our global, universal connections under the same sky. Our energies and our spirits are intertwined, and our singing together allows us to express this fact.

#### Storytelling.

Music has always been a universal language in my heart, but learning about the history and meaning behind these songs has transformed my view of our role as storytellers. Storytelling can be transformative - for performer and audience. May you approach this concert and our world with curiosity, wonder and openness.

## IN THE COMPOSERS' WORDS

### **Sherryl Sewepagaham:**

okâwimâw askîy (Mother Earth) - began as a vocable song and Cree words were added to bring more meaning. The intention of the song is love, hope and standing in unity to take better care of our mother earth. A first-person plural perspective is intentional for us to speak directly to her as we sing to her as her children: Mother Earth, we are your children. We love you.

### **Andrew Balfour:**

Four Directions (music from NAGAMO) - Nagamo is a reimagining of history. By taking choral music of the Elizabethan masters and other later choral music, I have reshaped the thoughts behind the texts, by changing the Latin to Ojibway or Cree perspectives. These are not direct translations of the sacred texts, rather a more Indigenous perspective of spirituality, but keeping the beauty of the polyphony intact.

Text translation: West, North, East, South, Sky

Vision Chant - incorporates the Ojibway word, "babamadizwin," which means "journey." Based on an Indigenous chant style, this work is striking for both its stillness and its intensity. The journey that is evoked begins and ends with a soprano melody, at first divided and then symbolically perhaps, unified. What takes place in between these musical bookends is the vision itself.

Anang (A Star) - is dedicated to my wife, who told me about the Indigenous understanding of the Star People, who are among us, representing where we all came from: the Universe and the stars. Only some can see them - among them, little children who attract the Star people, as the little ones have just emerged from the unknown. Star people are also attracted to shells, which is why you might see shells in some Indigenous ceremonies.

Text translation: A star fell through the sky towards me - stars shine brightly

### **T. Pat Carrabré**

Red River Valley was commissioned by David Finn, with the express request that Pat "repatriate the song from cowboy culture." Composed in 2018, the poetry is written in the voice of the "brown Métis woman" who, having been "married" to a Voyageur, now finds herself abandoned after the Voyageur's contract has come to an end. She asks that he never forgets their sweet vows and their time spent together, as he leaves his grief to the Red River girl. Her strength is reflected in the final four verses of the song.

Love was written as part of a set of Three Madrigals that were commissioned for the Westman Youth Choir and the Tlaxcala Canta Festival in Mexico. When I was a student I loved singing Madrigals, from the English fa-la-la type through the full range of Italian and French styles. Here I decided to use a single word for the text, trying to fill the piece with a range of the emotions from sweet and tender to hopeful and at times needful. We need to love ourselves, our family and friends, the land we live on, and hopefully each other.

### **Mary Louise Martin, Mi'kmaq poet**

Grandmother Moon

she looks into and beyond my soul - the lacy cedar boughs creating her shadows - cedar ones weave design of midnight canvas - she looks into and beyond my soul she a powerful sacred hoop of full light - simplicity against the ebony blues and blacks of night sky land and crystal star people -she looks into and beyond my soul - her round face of translucent beauty and light - quiet powers speak out in her name...

"we'lalin" ("thank you" in Mi'kmaq)

### **cris derksen:**

kâ-nimihitocik (They who are dancing) - I wanted to write a piece that spoke to both my Mennonite and Cree heritage. A commonality for them is the cold winter nights in Northern Alberta that bring the dancing Northern Lights with them. There are a few Cree words and translations for the Northern Lights. The common Cree story is: the Northern Lights are our ancestors - the Ghosts are dancing. They are celebrating and welcoming in new spirits to join them. The story also goes that one should not whistle at the Northern lights, as they will grow brighter and bring you up with them. These are/were stories told to children, so they did not go wandering at night chasing the lights, and the dangers and consequences of that.

Text translation: northern lights, they who are dancing - northern lights, aurora borealis - northern lights the Cree words that means "the ghosts are dancing"

### **Other text translations:**

Dirait-on (As They Say)

Wildness surrounding wildness, tenderness touching tenderness,

It is your own core that you ceaselessly caress... as they say.

It is your own centre that you caress, your own reflection gives you light.

And in this way, you show us how Narcissus is redeemed. ([www.lingualeo.com](http://www.lingualeo.com))

Discover more about our featured composers:

T. Pat Carrabré: <https://tpatrickcarrabre.com> cris derksen: <https://www.crisderksen.com>

Andrew Balfour: <https://deadofwinter.ca/about-us/composer-and-artistic-director/>

Sherryl Sewepagaham: <https://nac-cna.ca/en/bio/sherryl-sewepagaham>

## PROGRAMME

okâwîmâw askîy (Mother Earth) Woodland Cree text and music by Sherryl Sewepagaham

### *Words of Welcome*

Earth Song Words & Music by Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

Four Directions Music by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585), Ojibway text & arr. by Andrew Balfour (b. 1967)

Forest Song Music by Stuart Beatch (b. 1991), words by Oliver Goldsmith (1794-1861)

Vision Chant (Journey) Andrew Balfour

Red River Valley traditional folk song arr. T. Patrick Carrabré (b. 1958)

Love Words & music by T. Patrick Carrabré

Sure On This Shining Night Music by Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943), words by James Agee (1909-1955)

### *Small Ensemble*

Grandmother Moon Music by Eleanor Daley (b. 1955), words by Mary Louise Martin (b. 1956)

kâ-nîmihitocik (They who are dancing) Words & music by Cris Derksen (b. 1981)

Stars Shall I Find Words by Sara Teasdale (1884-1933), music by David C. Dickau (b. 1953)

Anang (A Star) Music & Ojibway words by Andrew Balfour

Dirait-on Words by Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926), music by Morten Lauridsen

The Flight Song Words by Euan Tait (b. 1968), music by Kim André Arnesen (b. 1980)

## NO INTERMISSION

The Greater Vancouver Vivaldi Chamber Choir Society acknowledges that the land on which we live, work, and play is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

**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 Little  
Valie Madejska  
Olivia Selig \*  
Andrea Teigelhoefer

**Altos**

Dinah Ayre \*  
Margaret Archibald  
Roz Coulson  
Bev Ferguson  
Bri Lefever  
Karen Millard  
Eve Munns  
Rebecca Citlali Nichols  
Cheryl Thomas

**Tenors**

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

**Basses**

Richard Cunningham  
Jack Foster \*  
Jeremy Hay  
Aaron Lau  
Michael Loo  
Mike Millard  
Peter Munns  
Kees van den Doel

\* Section Lead

**On Leave**

Michelle Arduini  
Sarah Ebert  
Al Kvern  
Sarah Lamont  
Angel Liu  
Freda Miller





## Edette Gagné – Artistic Director

Edette Gagné is a visionary leader who inspires others to go beyond what they thought were limitations, to achieve amazing results.

In her work around the globe with professionals and amateurs, Edette creates communities where people feel valued, included and safe to take chances, so that they can grow, flourish and be their best.

Edette increases sponsorship and audience growth; historically by up to 300%, by connecting with and engaging community support for performing arts organizations. As a strategist, Edette works with boards and stakeholders to find flexible, resilient ways to re-invent their organizations when facing challenges; so that they can create responses that are flexible and adaptive to needs as they emerge.

As an artistic director, stage director and music director of orchestras, choirs, opera and musical theatre groups, Edette champions creative programming, including staging and performances that captivate artists and audiences alike. She is known for inspiring performers to rise above the ordinary.

Throughout her career creating international touring shows, facilitating grand scale events on location, and transforming performing ensembles to realize their potential, Edette brings a deep work ethic and a commitment to creative collaboration. Edette resides in Vancouver, BC with her wife Melisa and several wonderful, rescued animals. She recharges her batteries with cooking, mindfulness, gratitude and reading.



## Karen Lee Morlang – Collaborative Pianist

An award-winning performer, educator and producer, Karen Lee Morlang has been lauded as “funny, brainy and creative.” After specializing in art song and chamber music for her post-graduate degree from the University of British Columbia, she then taught as a Sessional Lecturer at UBC while continuing her own education and performing in different parts of North America, Europe and Asia. Karen has been featured at the Vancouver International Jazz Festival, MusicFest Vancouver, the World Peace Forum, Women’s Worlds Conference, the Vancouver Folk Festival and has been broadcast on CBC Radio.

In addition to working with the Vivaldi Chamber Choir, Karen enjoys collaborating with local choirs such as the Vancouver Welsh Men’s Choir, BC Girls Choir, Chor Leoni Men’s Choir, Enchor, Vancouver Thunderbirds and Summerchor. With her passion for reaching new audiences for classical music, Karen has also directed recital and lecture series for the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Vancouver Public Library, the UBC Main Library, and completed a three-year project with the UBC Learning Exchange in the Downtown Eastside producing and teaching the Music Appreciation 101 course. As part of her

work in the DTES, Karen co-coordinated the “Night Before the Opera” events at the Carnegie Center with the Vancouver Opera.

Previously Karen also created and hosted a mini-series called “Nuts & Notes” on CBC Radio One as well as guest hosting on Westcoast Performance for CBC Radio Two. In exploring her own voice while playing piano with other singers, Karen was a founding member of the vocal groups The Lady Larks, The K Sisters and The No Shlt Shirleys. September 2022, Karen assumed the role of Music Director at St. Francis-in-the-Wood Church in West Vancouver, where she leads the enthusiastic Church Choir and the Coast Mountain Men’s Chorus.

Karen is also committed to her role as the Artistic Director of Health Arts Society of BC, which curates and delivers several hundred professional performances annually for elders living in long-term health care and retirement communities. When not at the piano or computer, Karen takes great pleasure in pursuing other passions such as riding her motorcycle, boating, fishing, hiking, swimming, reading, sewing, fussing over her potted plants and now learning to coordinate her lower limbs in the form of tap dancing.



## Catie Akune - violinist

Catie Akune is a Canadian violinist living on the west coast in Vancouver, British Columbia. She enjoys listening to and performing a wide range of genres including classical, azz, pop and folk. She recently earned a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance at the University of British Columbia, and continues to perform in orchestras, weddings and other events around the city. During her studies at UBC, she has also enjoyed learning early music on the baroque violin.

Taking up the violin at age 8, she learned music at Jamieson Elementary and continued developing her skills at Lord Byng Secondary where she received the string leadership and outstanding graduate awards. Her attendance at various musical institutes, including the VSOIW, UBC Chamber Orchestra Festival, PCMA Beethoven Op.18 String Quartet Workshop, and Domaine Forget, have strengthened her solo and chamber music skills. Recently, Catie and two of her colleagues were awarded 1st place in the 2022 Friends of Chamber Music Competition as Trio Lachance. She also had the opportunity to work as a mentor at the PCMA and Quiring Chamber Music Camps.

Currently, she is teaching beginner and intermediate violin to students of all ages at Vintage Violins.

## Our heartfelt thank you to the following individuals:

- 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.
- Ted Nodwell for the use of his photography for the graphics assets for this concert.
- Pacific Spirit United Church and their staff.
- Arianna Cheveldave - Choir Librarian and Rebecca Citlali Nichols - Librarian Assistant
- Linden Singers of Victoria for loaning us the music for this concert.
- Miriam Davidson for programme design/layout.
- Dr. T. Patrick Carrabré and Cris Derksen for assisting the curation of this programme.
- Kevin Zakresky - Music Director, St. Titus Anglican Church
- Mark Gilbert for his assistance at our Greased Lightning silent auction and fundraiser.
- 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.

## Join us for our final concert of the 2025-2026 season!



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

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

Love today's concert? Invite your friends to our special guest performance at the annual Vancouver Westcoast Music Society ([vwms.ca](http://vwms.ca)) fundraising event!

Saturday, March 28th  
West Point Grey United Church - 4595 W 8th Avenue, Vancouver (at Tolmie)  
2PM - doors open at 1:30 - reception to follow in the hall

Tickets: \$25 (without tax receipt for donation) - \$50 (with tax receipt for \$25) and \$100 (with tax receipt for \$75)

All proceeds after expenses go towards the Bursary and Scholarship Funds to support promising young BC based musicians with their education and early careers.

Tickets available through Showpass:  
<https://www.showpass.com/vwms-special-fundraising-concert/>



Vivaldi Chamber Choir sincerely thanks our Community Partners and individual donors for making it possible for us to bring you fine quality music.

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Jorge Vargas	Vancouver Warriors Lacrosse
Karen Lee-Morlang	West 10th Eyes
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We acknowledge the support of the BC Gaming Grant, the GMR Foundations, and the Deux Mille Foundation.

**Haydn's Seven Last Words of Christ - an oratorio with readings**

Soloists: Olivia Selig, Moriah Wax, Steve Froese and Jack Foster

Chorus: members of Vivaldi Chamber Choir

String Orchestra: Ensemble Harmonia

Edette Gagné - conductor Tony Lee - producer

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**Note that all performances begin at 7:30PM (doors open at 7PM)**

**Sunday, March 22 - Cloverdale United Church**

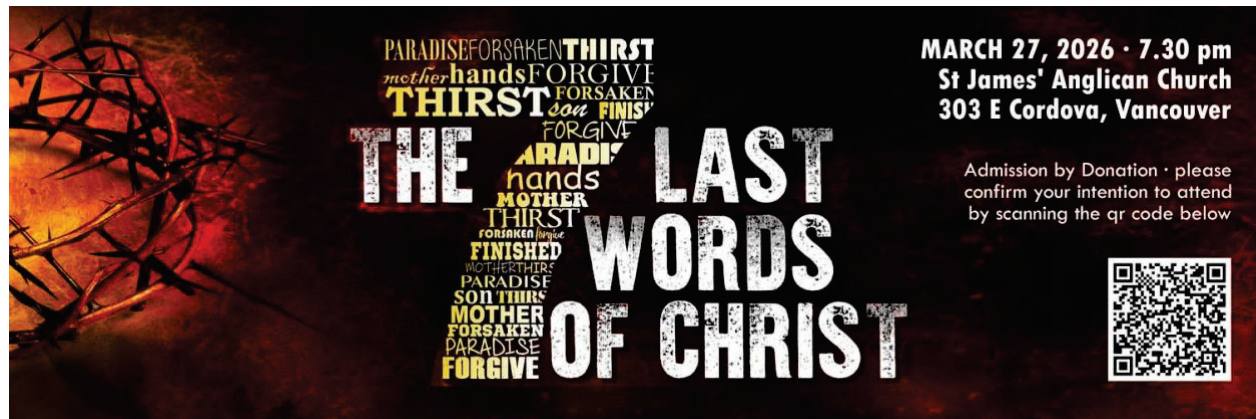
17575 - 58A Ave. Surrey, BC Tickets:



**Friday, March 27 - St. James Anglican Church**

303 E. Cordova, Vancouver (at Gore)

Admission by donation - register to attend via: <https://www.sjmusic.ca/events/joseph-haydn/2026-03-27>



**Saturday, March 28 - Grace Vancouver Church**

1696 W. 7th Ave, Vancouver (at Pine) Admission by donation at the door

**Sunday, March 29 - St. Faith's Anglican Church**

7284 Cypress St, Vancouver (at 49th Ave) Tickets:





ELEKTRA

# IF THE earth COULD SING

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**March 29 | 4pm**

**Pacific Spirit United Church**



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# Kaleidoscope

April 17, 2026

7:30 PM

Pacific Spirit United Church



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