



Vancouver Island Tour July 2 to 4, 2026



HOME *a musical exploration of home and belonging*

Artistic Director **Edette Gagné**
Collaborative Pianist **Kinza Tyrrell**

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - Thursday, July 2 at 7 PM

2295 WEILER AVENUE • SIDNEY, BC

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH - Friday, July 3 at 7 PM

2600 POWDER POINT ROAD • NANOOSE BAY, BC

FAIRFIELD UNITED CHURCH - Saturday, July 4 at 2 PM

UNITED COMMONS - 932 BALMORAL ROAD • VICTORIA, BC

ADMISSION BY DONATION

FIND MORE INFORMATION:
VIVALDICHOIR.ORG



Vivaldi Chamber Choir Vancouver Island Tour July 2nd to 4th, 2026

Artistic Director: Edette Gagné
Collaborative Pianist: Kinza Tyrrell
Guest Percussionist: Miguelito Valdés

Message from the Artistic Director

Welcome to our Island Touring show!

Preparing for this program has been a transformative process for us as a choir and for me as a director. The theme of “home” evokes big emotions, which have led to many discussions and much reflection alongside the dedicated effort required to bring this music to you today. We have grown as individuals and as a community – making this a very special show.

We continue to amplify voices in this show – Canadian composers like Rupert Lang, Donna Rhodenizer and Mari Alice Conrad – BIPOC composers like B.E. Boykin, Tracy Wong, Saunder Choi – and new to us voices like MaryAnne Muglia. We also lean into some warm favourites like Homeward Bound (both versions) and Va Pensiero, which is possibly one of the world’s best-known opera choruses.

We share the pain of missing one’s homeland – we share the joy in family and chosen family – we share the hope for a world where there is safety and peace – and we share the way that music calls us all home.

As we enjoy today’s journey together, I hope the music will move you, inspire you and maybe even give you some “happy goosebumps.” Vivaldi Chamber Choir is a chosen family – and coming together every week is definitely like coming home.

PROGRAMME NOTES, TEXTS, & TRANSLATIONS

Sehati (One Heart): This is an uplifting piece rooted in acceptance and belonging. It also humbly captures [her] gratitude and loyalty to the choral community, a sanctuary for many. The song encourages listeners to “come home” to a community that is “still here, together.” ~ Tracy Wong ~

Clapping together, singing as one. Singing together, Still here, together
Come home, Always, one heart, here. Oh one and harmonious, a bouquet of hearts
Still here, together. Come home, Come home together. Walking together.

Come Home (Lang): The piece opens with a plaintive alto solo, then a bass takes over while the choir gradually builds with achingly beautiful, lush harmonies. The soprano and bass soloists end the piece as quietly as it began.

After Music: Josephine Preston Peabody’s poem expresses a sentiment that is immediately understandable and moving. Music has the innate ability to ‘call’ and ‘move’ us, but how does one intimate that aspect properly? How do we speak of music’s stirring of our heart and ways? How do we speak of its ‘otherness’?

Journey Song: Captures the sacred moments of personal journey experienced in discovering a place for one’s own voice in the all-encompassing Great Song of Life. The piece is about finding acceptance, moving forward, and making room for all voices that contribute to the interconnected harmonies of life.

Va Pensiero: This chorus is also known as “Chorus of the Hebrew Captives”. Verdi took the story of the 70-year history of the captivity and enslavement of the Jews in Babylon in 587 BCE by Nebuchadnezzar (Nabucco) for this opera. “Va Pensiero” represents the longing of the enslaved Jewish people in Babylon for their homeland. It also has an emotional connection to the earlier enslavement and eventual release of the Jewish people from Egypt.
~ Peter Munns (Vivaldi Chamber Choir bass) ~

Va Pensiero, Go, thoughts, on golden wings;
Go, settle upon the slopes and hills, where warm and soft and fragrant are the breezes of our sweet native land!
Greet the banks of the Jordan, the towers of Zion ...
Oh my country so beautiful and lost! Or so dear yet unhappy! Or harp of the prophetic seers,
Why do you hang silent from the willows? Rekindle the memories within our hearts, tell us about the time that have gone by
Or similar to the fate of Solomon, give a sound of lament; or let the Lord inspire a concert
That may give to endure our suffering.

Come Home (Rhodenizer): This piece speaks of the memories and the loved ones who make home a special place. Although the composer’s beloved home province of Nova Scotia provided the inspiration for this song, no matter where we are, the call to return to our roots is a strong sentiment that resonates deep within us.

Goin’ Home: The theme from Dvořák’s Largo was adapted into a spiritual-like song "Goin' Home", by composer and lyricist William Arms Fisher whom Dvořák met during his American sojourn. We hear the orchestral introduction in the piano and the orchestral interlude in the choir. ~ Edette Gagné ~

Homeward Bound: In 1964, a young, homesick songwriter named Paul Simon was stranded at a train station in Widnes, England. Missing his girlfriend Kathy Chitty and tired of the lonely, exhausting life of touring small folk clubs, Simon penned the ballad to express his desperate desire to return to America.

Stardust: The singers call for “a home where we can run” in memory of Ahmaud Arbery, “a home where we can pray” in memory of the victims of the Mother Emanuel shooting, “a home where we can breathe” in memory of George Floyd, and a home “to sleep and dream without fear” in memory of Breonna Taylor. When we sing, we pray twice, and it is my prayer that this piece stirs all who hear it to call for justice for the people of colour taken from this world before their time and without concern for their humanity. “If we are only stardust, let your names reach to the sky above us. Like petals wafting on a breeze, we lift you up beyond our reach”. ~ B.E. Boykin ~

Message Out to Sea (Dear Mom...): I collaborated with my good friend and poet Brian Sonia-Wallace and asked him to write a heartfelt letter to loving mothers who remained a refuge for their LGBTQ+ children. The line “Beyond understanding, there lives laughter” was inspired by a conversation I had with my mom a few years after I came out. I remember her telling me that she didn’t fully comprehend my journey of self-discovery within the LGBTQ+ community, but she nevertheless remained a safe, loving space that allowed me to discover, navigate, and learn how to thrive as a gay immigrant. Towards the conclusion of the composition, I made a deliberate choice to quote one of my favorite hymn tunes, the Hyfrydol. In the Unitarian Universalist tradition, of which I am part of, this tune is set to the text “Blue Boat Home” – which similarly uses a lot of water/harbor imagery. Brian and I rewrote the text to “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” to connect more deeply with the themes of refuge and all-encompassing love. ~ Saunder Choi ~

Homeward Bound: Finding your true calling in life; knowing that those who love you trust that you will return... I wrote this song for a loved one who was embarking upon a new phase of life's journey, to express the soul's yearning to grow and change. ~ Marta Keen ~

We Rise: Like a phoenix reborn from the ashes, “We Rise” forcefully expresses the idea that the human heart, though weary, remains wild, untamed, and unstoppable.

PROGRAMME

Sehati (One Heart)

Music by Tracy Wong ✨
Words by Mohd Fairuz bin Mohd Tauhid (b. 1982)

Featured soloist: Dinah Ayre

Words of Welcome

Come Home

Music by Rupert Lang (b. 1948) ✨
Words by Emma Moberly (1847-1935)

Featured soloists: Arianna Cheveldave,
Jack Foster/Aaron Lau, Steve Froese

After Music

Music by Eric William Barnum (b. 1979)
Words by Josephine Preston Peabody (1874-1922)

Journey Song

Music by Mari Alice Conrad (b. 1981) ✨
Words by Anna Marie Sewell (b. 1965) ✨

PAUSE

Va Pensiero from the opera *Nabucco*

Music by Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)
Libretto by Temistocle Solera (1815-1878)

Come Home

Words & Music by Donna Rhodenizer ✨

Goin' Home

Theme based on *Largo from New World Symphony, Op. 95.*

Music by Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)
Words & adaptation by William Arms Fisher (1861-1948)

Homeward Bound

Words & Music by Paul Simon (b. 1941)
Arranged by Roger Emerson (b. 1950)

PAUSE

Stardust

Music by B.E. Boykin (b. 1989)
Words by Brittney Ray Crowell

Message Out to Sea (Dear Mom...)

Music by Saunder Choi (b. 1988)
Words by Brian Sonia-Wallace

Homeward Bound

Words & Music by Marta Keen (b. 1953)
Additional music by Gustav Holst (1874-1934)
Arranged by McKay Crockett

Featured soloists: Michael Loo, Sarah Little/Bri LeFever,
Steve Froese/Adam Dyjach
Small Treble Ensemble: Olivia Selig, Dinah Ayre, Arianna Cheveldave

We Rise

Words & Music by MaryAnne Muglia (b. 1996)

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 xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Vivaldi Chamber Choir – Touring Ensemble

Edette Gagné, Artistic Director
Kinza Tyrrell, Collaborative Pianist
Miriam Davidson, Administrator

Sopranos

Yasmine Bia
Arianna Cheveldave
Cara Elrod
Sarah Little
Olivia Selig *

Altos

Dinah Ayre *
Margaret Archibald
Bri LeFever
Karen Millard
Rebecca Citlali Nichols
Cheryl Thomas

Tenors

Adam Dyjach
Matt Emery
Steve Froese *

Basses

Jack Foster *
Jeremy Hay
Aaron Lau
Michael Loo
Mike Millard

* Section Lead

Please visit our website at www.vivaldichoir.org to see our full roster of singers.



Resident Collaborative Pianist: Karen Lee Morlang



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 – Resident 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 UBC, she then taught as a Sessional Lecturer at the UBC School of Music. Since then, Karen has been featured at the Vancouver International Jazz Festival, MusicFest Vancouver, World Peace Forum, Women’s Worlds Conference, the Vancouver Folk Festival and has been broadcast as performer and host on CBC Radio. In addition to co-founding the vocal groups The Lady Larks, The K Sisters and The No Sh!t Shirleys, Karen has directed various recital and lecture outreach series for the Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver Public Library, UBC Main Library and Vancouver Opera. In September 2022, Karen assumed the role of Music Director at St. Francis-in-the-Wood Church in West Vancouver. In the last 20 years, Karen has been committed to curating and delivering many programmes annually for elders living in long-term health care and retirement communities. In addition to working with the Vivaldi Chamber Choir currently, Karen has enjoyed collaborating with local choirs such as Chor Leoni, Summerchor, EnChor, Vancouver Welsh Men’s Choir and BC Girls Choir.



Dr. Kinza Tyrrell – Collaborative Pianist

2026 marks the 49th year that Dr. Kinza Tyrrell has been immersed in music. She made her orchestral debut at age 12 on the piano, and after high school pursued her musical studies at the prestigious Mozarteum in Salzburg and the Musikhochschule für darstellende und Kunst in Graz, Austria.

Some career highlights include singing with the University of Toronto Gospel Choir for Aaron Neville and Roberta Flack, touring with the violin/fiddle duo Bending the Bows, performing with Measha Brueggergosman at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics, recording several Hollywood movie soundtracks with the Vancouver Film Orchestra, being the organist on IZombie, conducting Nico Muhly’s polygamist opera Dark Sisters at Vancouver Opera and translating Maxime Goulet’s new opera Flight of the Hummingbird into the German language.

Kinza has extensive experience in choral conducting and is really enjoying her time directing the UVic Chorus and Island Song Choirs currently.



Miguelito Valdés – Guest Percussionist

Described as one of Cuba's most highly regarded trumpet players of his generation, Miguelito Valdés carries a rich history of performing with many of Cuba's top performers, including the Cabaret Tropicana Orquesta, Pablo Milanes, Isaac Delgado, Mayito Rivera, Klimax, Chucho Valdes, and has participated in award-winning recordings such as "La Rumba Soy Yo", which won a Latin Grammy in 2001.

In 2000, he began playing with Omara Portuondo (Diva singer of Buena Vista Social Club) with whom he traveled around the world for 6 years. He has also played with important jazz musicians abroad, including Michael Brecker, Herbie Hancock, John Patitucci, Danilo Perez, Wayne Shorter, and many others. Miguelito was part of the renowned orchestra, Afro Cuban All Stars from 2009 until he joined the Canadian Forces as part of the Naden Band in 2012.

Since making Victoria his home, he has become very involved in the local music scene.

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
- Arianna Cheveldave - Choir Librarian and Rebecca Citlali Nichols - Librarian Assistant
- The volunteer team of tour organizers, especially Sarah Little, Mike & Karen Millard, Arianna Cheveldave, Olivia Selig, & Sarah Lamont
 - St. Faith's Anglican Church and Adam Yates for hosting our pre-tour rehearsal
 - Donna Swail for feeding the choir brunch on Saturday
- The staff at Peace Lutheran Church (Sidney), St. Mary's Anglican Church (Nanoose Bay), and Fairfield United Church (Victoria)
 - Miriam Davidson for programme design/layout
- 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

Tell your Vancouver friends to stay tuned for the 2026/2027 Season Announcement! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, sign up for our email newsletter, check out our website www.vivaldichoir.org, or scan the QR code below.



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