

HIGH RIVER

GIFT OF MUSIC



Luminous

VOICES

PRESENT

TO THE WILD SUN OF WINTER

ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE HIGHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
PARKING LOT, HIGH RIVER

ONLINE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021

7PM MST

MICHÈLE WHEATLEY-BROWN

*Founder and Artistic Director
High River Gift of Music Society*



It is truly uplifting to celebrate and share beautiful music with you in these challenging times. The High River Gift of Music Society is about creating close connections between artists and community. Within our isolation, through collaboration and creativity, we have found a way for music to bring us together.

It is extremely exciting and rewarding to collaborate with the sublime professional chamber choir, Luminous Voices. With innovation, passion and dedication, this group has found a way to create a unique and unforgettable concert experience. Working together has helped us all flourish and regain our footing as we move forward to find ways to ensure live music endures.

Music is essential to our humanity and concerts are vital to our communities. As you will experience this evening, music has the power to give our lives meaning. It is a source of solace and also of hope and joy. I hope you may find these in the concert this evening.

I am profoundly grateful for the many people, businesses, and organizations who support us in our mission to connect us all through live music. And lastly, I am grateful for you. We could not do this without you - our audience; you are an integral part of the gift of music. Thank you for being here tonight, celebrating great music and community.

Welcome!

The High River Gift of Music Society gratefully acknowledges the generous support from our donors including the family and friends of Candice Scott.

This concert is dedicated to the memory of Candice Scott, a devoted supporter and patron of the High River Gift of Music Society who touched many lives with her kindness, care and generosity.

Thank you to the many organizations and people who help make the Gift of Music possible.

HIGH RIVER

GIFT OF MUSIC

The logo for High River Gift of Music features the text "HIGH RIVER" in a small, sans-serif font above "GIFT OF MUSIC" in a larger, bold, purple sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a colorful, multi-colored swirl graphic that transitions from purple to blue, green, and yellow.

AT HIGH RIVER GIFT OF MUSIC, OUR PURPOSE IS IN OUR NAME.

ACCORDING TO THE DICTIONARY, THE TERM *GIFT* MEANS A PRESENT THAT IS WILLINGLY GIVEN TO ANOTHER TO SHOW AFFECTION. ALTERNATELY, IT CAN MEAN A SKILL OR APTITUDE.

THE GREEK ROOT OF THE WORD MUSIC IS MOUSIKE, MEANING THE ART OF THE MUSES, THOSE GRACEFUL GODDESSES OF ART, POETRY, MUSIC AND DANCE.

AS OUR NAME SUGGESTS WE EXIST TO PRESENT OUR AUDIENCE WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY GIFT – THE MUSICAL TALENT OF OUR ARTISTS.

High River Gift of Music Society is a non-profit organization that has brought excellence in music to the community of High River since 2009. Our aim is to open the doors to the world of music through education, outreach activities and of course, incredible musical performances.

While our focus is primarily on classical music, you will find a wide range of instrumentalists and vocalists appearing on the High River stage. From the ancient Chinese pipa to the grand piano, from marimba to guitar to opera and ensemble choirs, we appreciate and support diversity and love to surprise our audience.

We support our community by extending the gift of music in other ways. We seek out artists who are both communicative and talented, able to provide insight into how great music is inspired, composed and played. Each season is capped with our Young Artists Extraordinaire event, welcoming talented local musicians as they embark on their musical careers with the support of our generous audience members.

Music education workshops and masterclasses give students opportunities to learn from and be inspired by some of the world's finest musicians. These interactions provide a very direct connection with the artist, the instrument and the music. We also share the gift of music through outreach activities, bringing our artists directly to audiences in senior's homes and a variety of venues, including a local historic barn for family concerts.

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No matter what the setting, our concerts celebrate music and community. The combination of an enthusiastic audience, generous volunteers, and musicians who communicate their music with passion makes for an unforgettable experience. This is music that inspires, bridging cultures and eras to bring people together.

www.highrivergiftofmusic.com

"SINCE JANUARY 2013, I MUST HAVE ATTENDED AT LEAST 50 CONCERTS OF CLASSICAL MUSIC IN NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE. ONE OF THE BEST HAPPENED TO BE IN HIGH RIVER, OF ALL PLACES."

Sudhir Jain

Letter to the Editor, Calgary Herald



CHORAL MUSIC OF EXCELLENCE AND REFINEMENT TRANSCENDS TIME AND PLACE, EXPRESSES EMOTION AND EXPERIENCE, CONNECTS, AND TRANSFORMS COMMUNITIES.

LUMINOUS VOICES, CALGARY'S PROFESSIONAL CHAMBER CHOIR, WAS FOUNDED IN 2012 BY CONDUCTOR AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TIMOTHY SHANTZ. WE UNITE LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO ILLUMINATE CHORAL MUSIC OF THE PAST AND PRESENT, SPANNING CULTURES AND TRADITIONS. WE ENGAGE AUDIENCES IN CALGARY AND BEYOND THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL SONIC EXPERIENCES ENCOMPASSING LIVE AND VIRTUAL PERFORMANCES, RECORDINGS, WORKSHOPS, NEW COMMISSIONS BY CONTEMPORARY COMPOSERS, AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

Luminous Voices, founded in 2012 by conductor and Artistic Director Dr. Timothy Shantz, continues to thrill audiences in Calgary and beyond through performances, recordings and workshops.

The choir has three commercial recordings. The most recent is *Sea Dreams*, music by Peter-Anthony Togni released in July 2020 on the Leaf Music label. *The Far West* was released in May 2016. Joshua Kosman of the San Francisco Chronicle wrote, "beautifully sung, as everything here is, by the aptly named Luminous Voices under Timothy Shantz." *The Far West* is the winner of the 2018 National Choral Award for Outstanding Choral Recording and 2016 National Choral Award for Outstanding Choral Composition from Choral Canada. The first recording, Mendelssohn's *Te Deum* released in March 2015 was the winner of the 2016 Choral Canada award for Outstanding Choral Recording. Luminous Voices illuminates exceptional choral music of the past and present while supporting contemporary composers by commissioning new works.

www.luminousvoices.com

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"NO CHOIR CAN ACHIEVE THIS LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE IN SUCH DIFFICULT MUSIC WITHOUT FINE SINGERS AND A CONDUCTOR OF TALENT AND ADVANCED MUSICAL CAPABILITY. AND THIS LATTER ROLE LUMINOUS VOICES HAS WITH TIMOTHY SHANTZ."

Kenneth DeLong, Calgary Herald

Luminous
VOICES

TIMOTHY SHANTZ

Founder and Artistic Director Luminous Voices



Timothy Shantz brings a wealth of expertise and artistry to his roles as Chorus Master, Conductor and Artistic Director. He is an experienced conductor, collaborator, and tenor soloist. Shantz is Founder and Artistic Director of Calgary's Professional Choir, Luminous Voices. He was Chorus Master for the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra between 2008-2020, and served as Artistic Director of Spiritus Chamber Choir for 11 seasons during the same period. In 2019, Timothy Shantz joined the Department of Music at The University of Alberta as an Associate Professor. As conductor, Shantz is recognized for the breadth of his work in early-music, contemporary works, virtuoso unaccompanied choral music, as well as large choral-orchestral masterpieces. Kenneth DeLong of the Calgary Herald wrote, "It is hard to believe that it has been a full decade since Timothy Shantz became the chorus master of the CPO Chorus. During this decade, Shantz, always energetic and full of initiative, has transformed the choral life of the city." Under his direction, Spiritus Chamber Choir earned the Healey Willan Grand Prize from the Canada Council in 2017 and 2013 and has toured internationally, earning second prize at the Fleischmann International Choral Competition in Cork, Ireland as well as second prize at the Florilège Vocal de Tours in France.

Shantz has extensive experience preparing choruses for other conductors and major orchestral works collaborating with conductors Rune Bergmann, Christoph König, Matthew Halls, Paul Hillier, James MacMillan, Nicholas McGegan, Roberto Minczuk, John Morris Russell, Yoav Talmi, Ivars Tuarins and Jean-Marie Zeitouni among others. He has also performed as tenor under the direction of Pierre Boulez, Frieder Bernius, Paul Goodwin, Paul Hillier, Andrew Megill, John Poole, Leonard Ratzlaff, Daniel Reuss, Robert Shaw, Richard Sparks, Jon Washburn and Bruno Weil.

Shantz has several recordings to his name, including *Sea Dreams* by Peter-Anthony Togni, Zachary Wadsworth's *The Far West* (2016) of which Joshua Kosman of the San Francisco Chronicle wrote "beautifully sung, as everything here is, by the aptly named Luminous Voices under Timothy Shantz." *The Far West* was awarded the 2018 National Choral Award for Outstanding Choral Recording and 2016 National Choral Award for Outstanding Choral Composition from Choral Canada. The choir's first recording, Mendelssohn's *Te Deum* earned the 2016 Choral Canada award for Outstanding Choral Recording. Other recordings include, James MacMillan's *Seven Last Words* (Spring 2014), *All the Stars Looked Down* (2012) and *Stars and Solitude* (2010) with Spiritus Chamber Choir. Performance highlights as tenor include Händel's *Messiah* at Carnegie Hall, soloist and ensemble singer at the Carmel Bach Festival (2008-2016) and twice with the Lucerne Festival Academy under the direction of Pierre Boulez.

Shantz holds a Doctor of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music with a dissertation analyzing the unaccompanied choral work *Sun-Dogs* by composer James MacMillan.

PROGRAM

Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 7:00pm

Beati Quorum Via

Charles Villiers Stanford
(1852-1924))

Trapped in Stone

Andrew Balfour*
(b. 1967)

Wake Me Up, Lord

Uzee Brown Jr.
(b. 1950)

Ave Maria

Anton Bruckner
(1824-1896)

Ave Maria

Nathaniel Dett
(1882-1943)

Nicholas Allen, baritone

Mother's Song

Jocelyn Hagen
(b. 1980)

O Nata Lux

Morten Lauridsen
(b. 1943)

Only in Sleep

Ēriks Ešvalds
(b. 1977)

Julie Crouch, soprano

PROGRAM

The Road Home

Stephen Paulus
(1949-2014)

Caleb Nelson, tenor

When the Earth Stands Still

Don MacDonald*
(b. 1966)

Wanting Memories

Ysaye M. Barnwell
(b. 1946)

Sara Staples, mezzo-soprano

Let's Walk Together

Paul Smith
(b. 1989)

Paul Grindlay, bass

To Shorten Winter's Sadness

Thomas Weelkes
(1576-1623)

Winter Sun

Don MacDonald*
(b. 1966)

Lean on Me

Bill Withers
(1938-2020)

* INDICATES CANADIAN COMPOSER

CONTRIBUTORS

LUMINOUS VOICES

Soprano

Julie Crouch
Christina Jahn
Monique Olivier
Katie Partridge

Alto

Julie Freedman-Smith
Meghan Prescott
Sara Staples

Tenor

Boyd Hansen
Oliver Munar
Jason Ragan

Bass

Nicholas Allen
Aaron Bartholomew
Paul Grindlay
Bryan Hryciw



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CONTRIBUTORS

DANIEL BOWIE

DB VISUAL PRODUCTIONS



Daniel Bowie has been in the live event audio visual industry for the past 21 years. Working for clients such as the Calgary Stampede, World Cup Speed Skating, World Archery, WestJet, and many corporate clients. Helping people communicate their passion using technology is my focus and purpose.

CALEB NELSON

SILVER STUDIOS



Caleb Dale Nelson was born in small town Wetaskiwin, Alberta and grew up on his parents farm. Singing is a natural expression for Caleb as his family atmosphere has been described as a re-incarnation of the VonTraps on more than one occasion. While attending post-secondary, Caleb joined the Madrigal Singers as a classical tenor while also playing trumpet in the U of A and MacEwan collaborative jazz bands. While at the U of A Caleb met many other musicians with his passion for the voice and other instrumentation, as well as the vision to bring choral music into the mainstream for young men through a cappella arrangements. That group has grown into a 6-man powerhouse, 6 Minute Warning. In 2010, Caleb began working as a recording engineer for Edmonton's Wolf Willow Sound doing dialogue editing for television shows and video games. His work at the studio has influenced the push for a home recording studio to have a space to perform on more instruments, write and record original songs, as well as help other artists with their own creativity. Caleb's skill set expands from voice and trumpet to piano, guitar, bass, and will continue to grow as he dedicates more time to his craft.

DAVID WILLIAMS

AVHD VISUAL SOLUTIONS | MOTION GRAPHICS

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS



Beati quorum via

Psalm 119

Beati quorum via integra est,
qui ambulant in lege Domini.

Blessed are the undefiled in the way,
who walk in the law of the Lord.

Trapped in Stone

based on, and written for, the memory of the Scottish prisoners of war imprisoned at Durham Cathedral, September 11, 1650

Cumha (Scottish Gaelic) - an elegy or lament

Trapped in Stone

Alba - ancient name for Scotland

Cruith'nay - myth. First Pictish King

Wake me up, Lord

Ja Jahannes

Wake me Up Lord when it's over.

When the shouting is done and the course is run, wake me up, Lord, when it's over.

When your promise is fulfilled, and your Child has come home, wake me up, Lord, when it's over.

Ave Maria

Traditional Latin

Ave Maria, gratia plena,

Dominus tecum;

Benedicta tu in mulieribus,

Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

Sancta Maria, mater Dei,

Ora pro nobis peccatoribus,

Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace,

The Lord is with you;

Blessed are you among women,

And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us sinners,

Now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

Anonymous, Japanese, translated by Willis Barnstone

If snow falls on the far field

where travelers

spend the night,

I ask you, cranes,

to warm my child in your wings.

O Nata Lux

Traditional Latin

O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
dignare clemens supplicum
laudes preces que sumere.

Qui carne quondam contegi
dignatus es pro perditis.
Nos membra confer effici,
tui beati corporis.

Only in Sleep - Sara Teasdale

Only in sleep I see their faces,
Children I played with when I was a child,
Louise comes back with her brown hair braided,
Annie with ringlets warm and wild.

Only in sleep Time is forgotten—
What may have come to them, who can know?
Yet we played last night as long ago,
And the doll-house stood at the turn of the stair.

The years had not sharpened their smooth round faces,
I met their eyes and found them mild—
Do they, too, dream of me, I wonder,
And for them am I too a child?

The Road Home - Michael Dennis Browne

Tell me, where is the road
I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost
So long ago?
All these years I have wandered,
Oh when will I know
There's a way, there's a road
That will lead me home?

O born light of light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
mercifully deem worthy and accept
the praises and prayers of your supplicants.

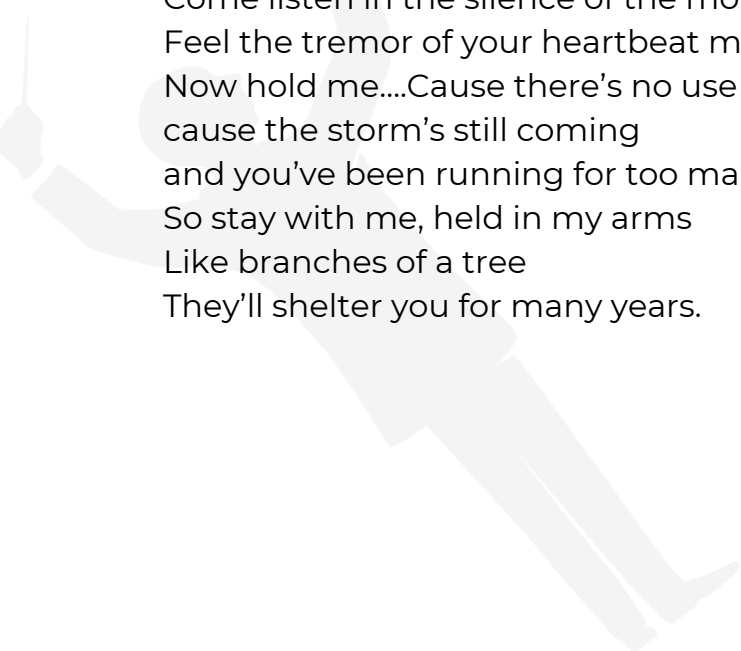
Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost ones,
grant us to be made members
of your holy body.

After wind, after rain,
When the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream
In the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling
From far away,
There's a voice I can hear
That will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me,
Come away, is the call,
With the love in your heart
As the only song;
There is no such beauty
As where you belong;
Rise up, follow me,
I will lead you home.

When the Earth Stands Still - Don MacDonald

Come listen in the silence of the moment before rain comes down.
There's a deep sigh in the quiet of the forest and the tall tree's crown.
Now hold me.
Will you take the time to hold me and embrace the chill?
Or miss me,
will you take the time to miss me when the earth stands still?
Cause there's no use running
cause the storm's still coming
and you've been running for too many years.
Come listen in the silence of the moment before shadows fall.
Feel the tremor of your heartbeat matching heartbeat as we both dissolve.
Now hold me....Cause there's no use running
cause the storm's still coming
and you've been running for too many years.
So stay with me, held in my arms
Like branches of a tree
They'll shelter you for many years.



Wanting Memories

Keali'i Reichel

I am sitting here wanting memories to teach me,
To see the beauty in the world through my own eyes.

You used to rock me in the cradle of your arms,
You said you'd hold me till the pains of life were gone.
You said you'd comfort me in times like these and now I need you,
Now I need you, and you are gone.

I am sitting here wanting memories...

Since you've gone and left me, there's been so little beauty,
But I know I saw it clearly through your eyes.
Now the world outside is such a cold and bitter place,
Here inside I have few things that will console.
And when I try to hear your voice above the storms of life,
Then I remember all the things that I was told.

I am sitting here wanting memories...

I think on the things that made me feel so wonderful when I was young.
I think on the things that made me laugh, made me dance, made me sing.
I think on the things that made me grow into a being full of pride.
I think on these things, for they are true.

I am sitting here wanting memories...

I thought that you were gone, but now I know you're with me,
You are the voice that whispers all I need to hear.
I know a please a thank you and a smile will take me far,
I know that I am you and you are me and we are one,
I know that who I am is numbered in each grain of sand,
I know that I've been blessed again, and over again.

I am sitting here wanting memories...

Let's Walk Together - Daniel Simpson

I don't know, either,
But let's walk together
We'll make home
And then we'll get there.

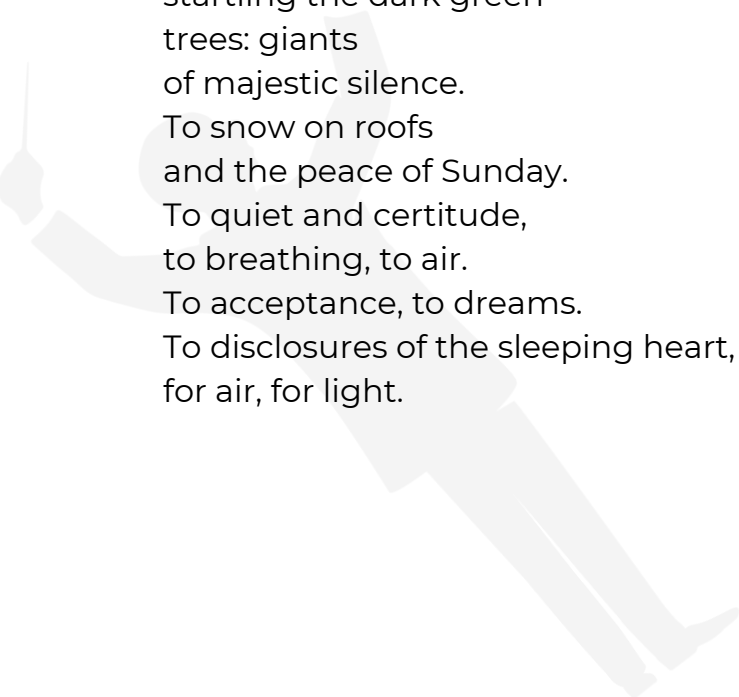
To Shorten Winter's Sadness - Anonymous

To shorten winter's sadness,
See where the nymphs with gladness:
Fa la la.
Disguised, all are coming,
Right wantonly a-mumming:
Fa la la.

Though masks encloud their beauty,
yet give the eye her duty,
Fa la la la..
When Heav'n is dark it shineth,
and unto love inclineth:
Fa la la la..

Winter Sun - Malca Litovitz

To light,
to water,
and the flow of birds
through ancient stars.
To the wild sun of winter
startling the dark green
trees: giants
of majestic silence.
To snow on roofs
and the peace of Sunday.
To quiet and certitude,
to breathing, to air.
To acceptance, to dreams.
To disclosures of the sleeping heart,
for air, for light.



Lean on Me - Bill Withers

Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain, we all have sorrow.
But if we are wise,
We know that there's always tomorrow.

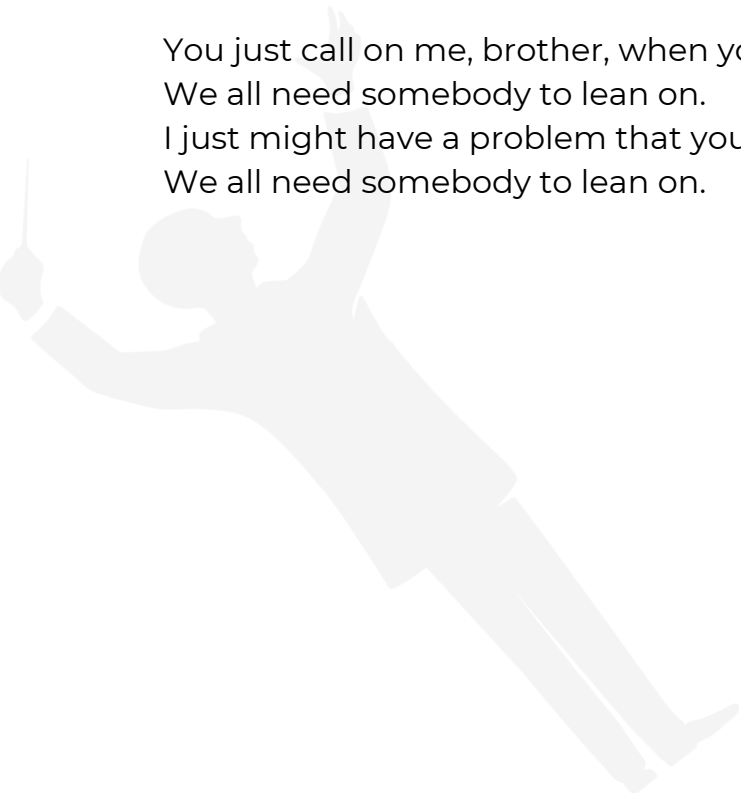
Lean on me when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long'
Til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.

Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill those of your needs
That you won't let show.

You just call on me, brother, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on.
I just might have a problem that you'll understand,
We all need somebody to lean on.

Lean on me when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long'
Til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on

You just call on me, brother, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on.
I just might have a problem that you'll understand,
We all need somebody to lean on.



BIOGRAPHIES

Soprano



JULIE CROUCH

Julie Crouch grew up in a home filled with music, studying piano for 12 years before switching to voice. She sang in touring choirs in both high school and college. After a five-year hiatus, she credits her sister -- singer and vocal instructor Michelle Crouch -- as well as Eva Bostrand (Storefront Studios, Edmonton) with getting her back into the singing that she loves so much. A longtime member of the award-winning Spiritus Chamber Choir and a founding member of Luminous Voices, Julie also enjoys regular collaborations with VoiceScapes and Early Music Voices.

When she's not singing, Julie facilitates healing through her hands at Acadia Massage Therapy.



CHRISTINA JAHN

Soprano Christina Jahn is very grateful to have appeared both as a soloist and ensemble singer for over 25 years with leading Canadian early music groups and professional ensembles such as the Toronto Consort, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Opera Atelier, Early Music Vancouver, Vancouver Cantata Singers, Toronto Masque Theatre, Aradia Baroque Ensemble, Sine Nomine Ensemble for Medieval Music, Alberta Baroque Ensemble, and at the Carmel Bach Festival in California. She has recorded for Marquis, NAXOS, Skylark and CBC Records. Christina founded musica intima in Vancouver and since her return to Calgary in 2000, formed and is Artistic Director for VoiceScapes, Calgary's critically-acclaimed professional vocal ensemble.

BIOGRAPHIES

A strong proponent of developing emerging talent, she has provided stepping stone opportunities for over 150 young singers through the Debut Singers program at VoiceScapes Sing Along Messiah and through regular collaborations on VoiceScapes programs. Christina is a founding member of Luminous Voices – both as a singer and on the board. In addition to extensive work in early music, Christina has also premiered and recorded a number of new compositions by Canadian composers, and has done fun engagements like singing to over 25,000 people at Globalfest's Fireworks Finale. Christina has contributed significantly to community arts and service organizations over the last 30 years, serving on boards in AB, BC and ON. This year she returns to the Luminous Voices board and will be an inaugural board member for String Theory Music Collective. Outside of music, Christina has recently set up her own consulting practice as a learning & development specialist and coach.



MONIQUE OLIVIER

Monique Olivier graduated in 2005 from the University of Lethbridge with a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, under the direction of Dr. George Evelyn. She has sung with a number of exceptional choirs including the award-winning Spiritus Chamber Choir, the Canadian Chamber Choir, and the National Youth Choir.

Monique directs the Choral program at William Aberhart High School, which consistently receives "superior" ratings at local, provincial and national festivals. She also serves on the board of the Calgary Association for the Development of Music Education (CADME), coordinating choral and conducting workshops.

BIOGRAPHIES



KATIE PARTRIDGE

Katie Partridge received her vocal training at the University of Calgary and the Banff Centre for the Arts and studied early music with The Hilliard Ensemble, Paul Hillier, Suzie LeBlanc, and Peter Phillips. She was a founding member of the Early Music Consort of Calgary, with whom she released two recordings.

Katie spent three seasons with the Elmer Iseler Singers and, while living in Toronto, performed with the Amadeus Choir, Sine Nomine, and worked with conductors Helmut Rilling and Tonu Kallujste.

She has been a core member of Luminous Voice since 2012 and is featured on their recordings of Mendelssohn's *Te Deum*, *The Far West* and their upcoming release of works by Peter Togni. Katie was the soprano soloist in Luminous Voices' performances of Togni's *Responsio* and will be a soloist in his commissioned piece for the Calgary Renaissance Singers and Players in 2020. Last year, Katie performed with Early Music Alberta in a concert featuring the music of François Couperin.

Alto



JULIE FREEDMAN-SMITH

Alto Julie Freedman Smith has been singing since childhood and has travelled the world with her music. A founding member of Luminous Voices, she loves to perform and to teach, having spent many years as a music teacher, voice instructor, choral conductor, soloist and clinician. Since 2002, she has encouraged parents across the country as co-founder of Parenting Power.

BIOGRAPHIES



MEGHAN PRESCOTT

Meghan Prescott is originally from the Waterloo region of Ontario, Canada, where she studied piano, voice and violin at the Beckett School of Music, and was a student in the Eastwood Collegiate Arts Program. She spent three years travelling throughout the United States as a singer and vocal coach with Life Action Ministries. She studied voice with Stephanie Kramer at the University of Waterloo, taught piano and voice at the Guelph School of Music, and maintained a private piano studio for many years. A lifelong choral singer, Meghan sang seven seasons with the Grammy-nominated Elora Festival Singers (Noel Edison, director). She is also a founding member of Luminous Voices.

When she's not singing or at the office, she enjoys spending time in the mountains or exploring the city with her husband.



SARA STAPLES

Sara Staples, Mezzo-Soprano, has been singing and performing ever since she discovered the stage. She fell in love with classical music at a young age, while singing for many years in a Calgary children's choir. She continued on to take private voice lessons and began to discover her love of art song and opera. She went on to achieve a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of North Texas and a Master of Music in Vocal Arts from the University of Southern California.

While pursuing her studies, Sara performed the operatic roles of Nancy in Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring* (USC Thornton Opera), Hermia in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (U. of North Texas Opera) and Hora in Cavalli's *Egisto* (U. of North Texas Opera).

BIOGRAPHIES

She has also portrayed roles in numerous scenes from the operas *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, *Candide*, *I Capuletti e i Montecchi*, *Don Giovanni*, *La Calisto* and *Così fan tutte*. Equally at home on the concert stage, Sara has been featured as a soloist with The Richard Eaton Singers, Calgary Bach Society, Luminous Voices, Voicescapes, Symphony of the Vines, and The Horizon Music Group. In 2009, Ms. Staples was a soloist at both the Taipei International Choral Festival and the Boston Early Music Festival. Also an active recitalist, Ms. Staples has performed as a part of the MountainView International Festival of Song and Chamber Music, The Paso Robles Paderewski Festival, The Sunday's Live Concert series at Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Casalmaggiore International Festival.

Since returning back to Alberta, she has performed the roles of The Foreign Princess in Dvořák's *Rusalka* (Opera NUOVA), and Doris Whithers in *Mr. Moreover's Magic* (Opera NUOVA) for the 2011 Fall School Tour in Edmonton. In Calgary she has portrayed La Suora Zelatrice in *Suor Angelica* (Calgary Concert Opera), Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel* (Cowtown Opera), Mercédès in *Carmen* (Calgary Concert Opera) Maria in *The Sound of Music* (Cowtown Opera) as well as a number of other local concerts and performances. Sara also teaches voice lessons in Calgary, and hopes that students of all ages will share the joy in music that has been such an essential part of her life.

BIOGRAPHIES

Tenor



BOYD HANSEN

Boyd Hansen began singing at the age of seven with the Calgary Boys' Choir. This early exposure to the joys of choral music and the rich experience it affords led him to continue singing with choirs including the Lethbridge Collegiate Institute Chamber and Jazz Choirs, the University of Lethbridge Singers, Spiritus Chamber Choir, Vocal Point Chamber Choir (Toronto), Strata (Hamilton, ON), and Il Sono Men's Vocal Ensemble. He has performed with VoiceScapes and in joint concerts with Pro Coro Canada, the Vancouver Chamber Choir, and the Calgary Philharmonic Chorus.

Boyd is a founding member of Luminous Voices. He holds degrees in physics and engineering, and is currently employed as an integrated circuit design engineer.



OLIVER MUNAR

Oliver Munar is a veteran ensemble singer who is in increasing demand as a concert and operatic tenor. A founding member and frequent soloist with Luminous Voices, Oliver also collaborates as chorister and soloist with Edmonton-based Pro Coro Canada, and as soloist and chorus conductor with Calgary Concert Opera Company.

BIOGRAPHIES

Oliver was recently celebrated in an unexpected, “remarkable” debut as the title role of Mendelssohn’s Elijah with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. He was also recognized for “considerable vocal gifts” as a soloist in Monteverdi’s Vespro della Beata Vergine with Early Music Voices and Rosa Barocca. Other recent soloist performances included Mozart’s Requiem with the award-winning Da Camera Singers (Edmonton), Handel’s Messiah with the Foothills Philharmonic Society, J.S. Bach’s St. John Passion, and Mozart’s Vesperae solennes de confessore. On the operatic stage, he performed the roles of Gastone in Verdi’s La traviata, the Philistine Messenger in Saint-Saëns’ Samson et Dalila, and the title character of Britten’s Albert Herring.

Oliver completed a Master of Music performance degree with operatic tenor John Tessier and vocal coach Shannon Hiebert, with both of whom he continues to train.



JASON RAGAN

Born and raised in Magrath, Alberta, tenor Jason Ragan completed a Master of Music degree at the University of Western Ontario under the tutelage of Theodore Baerg. He also graduated from the University of Lethbridge where he studied voice with Blaine Hendsbee.

As a member of Calgary Opera's Emerging Artists Program, Jason performed the roles of Blind in Die Fledermaus, both First Priest and Armed Man in Die Zauberflöte, and Graf Albert in the Canadian premiere of Korngold's Die Tote Stadt. Previous roles include Gonzalve in L'heure espagnole, Ramiro in La Cenerentola, and male chorus in The Rape of Lucretia with UWOpera.

BIOGRAPHIES

Bass



NICHOLAS ALLEN

Nicholas Allen is a native Calgarian who endeavoured into a life of music at an early age. He has been playing piano as well as singing in choirs for the last 17 years, including 2 years with the prestigious Vienna Boys Choir. He recently completed a degree in Music Education from UVic, studying voice under Ben Butterfield and singing with the UVic Chamber Singers and UVic Vocal Jazz. As a classical soloist he has performed with the Calgary Bach Society in 2014 and VoiceScapes in 2009 as well as with many orchestras across Vancouver Island. He is currently singing professionally at Knox Presbyterian Church and as principal bass with the Calgary Philharmonic Chorus. He currently works as a K-9 music teacher in the Calgary Catholic School District.



AARON BARTHOLOMEW

Aaron is thrilled to be a part of Luminous Voices, singing with friends new and old. He is originally from the UK and holds a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from the University of Lethbridge. He is the bass lead at the Cathedral Church of the Redeemer and sometimes sings with a few of the awesome opera companies in town. When he isn't making music with others he works in print and design, and is a big sports fan. Thanks to Tim and LV for the memories!

BIOGRAPHIES



PAUL GRINDLAY

I feel fortunate to have been blessed with a unique bass voice. Perhaps I can take credit for the “ten thousand hours” of practice and commitment spent getting to know my instrument, but mostly I am indebted to many amazing teachers, mentors and colleagues who have inspired and supported me on my musical journey, including my parents, grandparents, wife, brothers and so many others. I have enjoyed a quarter century of professional performances on three continents and recorded CDs for NAXOS, Toccata Classics and Marquis. I was appointed Artistic Director of the Calgary Boys’ Choir in 2004. I also direct the choir at Knox Presbyterian Church and teach at Mount Royal Conservatory of Music. When not immersed in music, I can be found with family and friends, fly fishing, hiking, biking, swimming, cooking or writing poetry.



BRYAN HRYCIW

Bryan Hryciw, a founding member of Luminous Voices, has been involved in music since the age of five. Educated on violin and viola, he played with string ensembles and orchestras until graduation. He also performed with choral and concert band programs throughout high school and university. Bryan began a percussion career as a performer in 1996, joined the music staff at the Stampede Show Band in 2001, and was the percussion caption head and arranger from 2006 until 2010. Bryan sings with the award-winning Spiritus Chamber Choir, and collaborates regularly with Il Sono Men's Vocal Ensemble, The Cathedral Church of the Redeemer Choir and VoiceScapes.

Bryan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science (Calgary) and works as a software developer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Luminous Voices is grateful that we have been able to continue singing for you, our audience, in innovative, creative, and safe ways - including here this evening for our debut performance in High River in partnership with High River Gift of Music Society and part of the Chinook Blast festival. Thank you for having us!

The generosity of our supporters has enabled Luminous Voices to navigate the ever-changing artist landscape over the past year. Because of you, we are able to continue connecting our community through choral music. We extend our deepest gratitude to the following individuals, foundations, and government funding agencies for their generous support.



Cathy Billington, President and Board Chair



Timothy Shantz, Artistic Director

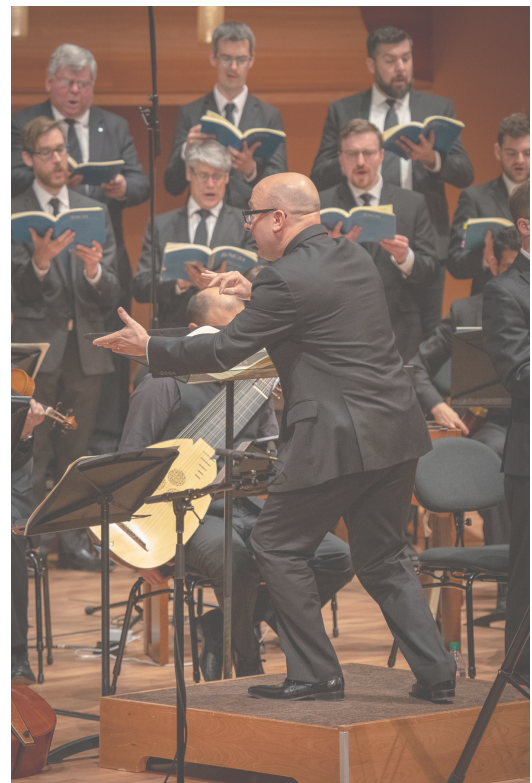
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