



LAUDATE



SINGERS

# A Tuneful Celtic Spring

**The North Shore Celtic Ensemble**  
Claude Giguère & J. Knutson, Artistic Directors

**Laudate Singers**  
Lars Kaario, Artistic Director

Saturday May 7, 2011 / 8pm  
Sunday May 8, 2011 / 3pm  
St Andrew's United Church, North Vancouver



Canada Council  
for the Arts

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du Canada

[www.laudatesingers.com](http://www.laudatesingers.com)  
[www.nsce.ca](http://www.nsce.ca)

# WELCOME

Spring – New life, awakening. Like spring, this concert has brought fresh inspiration to both The North Shore Celtic Ensemble and Laudate Singers.

*A Tuneful Celtic Spring* is the first time our ensembles have made music together. The project was a true collaboration – each group contributed its expertise and worked for the common purpose of creating a concert to bring joy to both performers and audience. Celtic instrumental music is, of course, the “home repertoire” for the NSCE; Laudate Singers have explored choral Celtic music in several concerts and often pushes the boundaries of choral music into new areas.

Works that each group has performed in the past were revisited and revised to tap into the grander palette of sound created when instruments and voices are joined. We are including three brand new works too – the inspired *Johnson's Landing* by Adrian Dyck, and *Lily of May* and *Above the Field and the Glen* by Laudate's composer-in-residence Bruce Sled. And of course we have sat back to enjoy each other's solo artistry within the realm of both traditional and new Celtic music.

It has been an enriching experience for the two North Shore ensembles to work together. We hope that you will enjoy the fruits of our labour and that Spring will be a time of refreshment for you as well.

*The Artistic Directors ~  
Lars Kaario, Laudate Singers  
Claude Giguère and Jay Knutson, The North Shore Celtic Ensemble*

## LAUDATE SINGERS



**LARS KAARIO**, founder and director of Laudate Singers, has built an impressive reputation as a conductor, singer and educator in his native Vancouver. His great love and commitment toward the choral arts is evident in his special abilities to inspire his singers/musicians, and effectively communicate the enjoyment and subtleties of music to his audiences. His tremendous energy coupled with his excellent organizational skills and programming abilities have helped to characterize his concerts as

“unforgettable, delightful, beautiful, and deeply satisfying musical experiences”.

Mr. Kaario is an ardent supporter of young musicians and composers. He is keenly interested in and sensitive to performing Canadian music. Mr. Kaario is Director of Choral Studies in the Diploma of Music Program at Capilano University where he directs three choirs and is also the head instructor in the University's Conducting Certificate Program. Other ensembles he has directed include Pacific Baroque Orchestra, CBC Orchestra, West Coast Symphony, West Coast Summer Music Festival Orchestra and Chorus, Vancouver Cantata Singers, Greater Vancouver Operatic Society, Theatre Under the Stars, and Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra. Mr. Kaario has been a director of music at several churches in the Lower Mainland. He has performed leading roles in opera, light opera and music theatre, and has appeared regularly in many recitals and concerts. In oratorio, he has been tenor soloist in such works as Bach's *B Minor Mass*, Beethoven's *Mass in C Major*, Dvorak's *Stabat Mater*, Handel's *Messiah*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and Mozart's *Requiem* with many of B.C.'s major choirs and orchestras. Mr. Kaario is a past member and soloist with the Vancouver Chamber Choir. He is a past recipient of the Judy Dennis Award for his contribution to the arts on the North Shore.

## NORTH SHORE CELTIC ENSEMBLE

**CLAUDE GIGUÈRE** has 20 years' experience as a professional violinist and teacher. A graduate of the Vancouver Academy of Music, he has performed with the Vancouver Opera Orchestra, the CBC Orchestra and many chamber ensembles. He was a founding member of Babayaga String Quartet, a Vancouver based jazz group and, with the quartet, released a CD in 1996. Claude's musical interests turned to the Celtic/folk genre, and he began extensive work in this area. In 1998 he recorded a CD of Celtic music with guitarist/songwriter Jay Knutson, and in 1999 he founded the North Shore Celtic Ensemble. In addition to directing this group of young musicians, Claude writes many of the arrangements for the ensemble.



**JAY KNUTSON** has over 25 years of experience in performance and musical workshops. A founding member of Spirit of the West, he recorded several CDs with this group. He has toured and recorded with Carmen Campagne, Hart Rouge and Connie Kaldor, and has done documentary scoring for CBC Radio, the National Film Board of Canada, the Canadian Diabetic Association and Danish National Television. Jay has worked as a musical producer and arranger for over 30 albums. He has been associated with the North Shore Celtic Ensemble since its inception, providing leadership and musical support.



# A Tuneful Celtic Spring

Last Boat to Bowen (2010); and Gravel Road Set (Catharsis/Gravel Walks/Tuttle's Reel)		Alex Wallace Amy Cann/Scottish trad. Reel/Irish trad. reel
Lily of May ( <i>premiere</i> )		Bruce Sled (b.1975)
Codhlaím go Súan ( <i>from Celtic Mass</i> )	<i>solo: Heidi Ackermann</i>	Michael McGlynn (b.1964)
Dúlámán	<i>solo: C.D. Saint</i>	M. McGlynn
Sparrow's Jigs		B. Sled
Dixie	<i>trio: Miriam Davidson, Katie Horst, Elspeth Finlay</i>	Serge Fiori (b.1952)
Above the Field and the Glen ( <i>premiere</i> )		B. Sled
Star of the County Down/Cooney's Reel/Drowsy Maggie		trad. Irish song and reels
	<i>solos: Geordie Roberts, C.D. Saint</i>	

## — INTERMISSION & RECEPTION —

Media Vita	<i>solo: C.D. Saint</i>	M. McGlynn
Salve Rex Glorïae	<i>solos: Heidi Ackermann, Mark DeSilva</i>	M. McGlynn
Blackthorn	<i>solo: Catherine Crouch</i>	M. McGlynn
Jimmy's Song		Kristopher Fulton (b.1978)
Johnson's Landing ( <i>premiere</i> )		Adrian Dyck (b.1972)
Flywheel (2010)/Mad Bulgar		Claude Giguère-Jay Knutson / Gordon Stobbe
Ashokan Farewell		text Grian MacGregor, music Jay Ungar (b.1946)
Blood of the Cuchulainn		Mychael Danna (b.1958) & Jeff Danna (b.1964)

## LAUDATE SINGERS

SOPRANO	ALTO	TENOR	BASS
Heidi Ackermann	Tami Copland	Hilary Crowther	Charlie Louie
Yasmine Bia	Miriam Davidson	Mark De Silva	Troy Martell
Catherine Crouch	Elspeth Finlay	Paul Jungwirth	Zulfikar Nathoo
Hannah Ng	Mavis Friesen	Chris Robinson	Ryan Noakes
Sheryl Reinhardt	Katie Horst	C.D. Saint	George Roberts
Jenny Vermeulen	Intan Purnomo		Joseph Young

## NORTH SHORE CELTIC ENSEMBLE

VIOLINS			PIANO:
Lena Benwood	Erik Jacobsen	Amanda Rowlands	Rebecca Parsons
Will Benwood	Alanna Jones	Brigit Sterry	
Alex Clancy	Jesse Kazemir	Emmalene van Meel	BASS:
Gabriel Dubreuil	Danielle Lee-Hogervorst	Alex Wallace	Patrick Clancy
Elan Failing	Emily MacCallum	Kurt Ward-Theiss	
Noah Gauthier	Mhairi MacCallum	Tegan Wahlgren	UKELELE:
	Olga Makarevski	Sean Wharton	Gabriel Dubreuil
	Jodie Nowell	Jennifer Wildi	

## GUEST INSTRUMENTALISTS

Marco Del Rio, oboe and pennywhistle	Michael Viens, bodhrán and percussion
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## LAUDATE SINGERS

### Artistic & Administrative Staff

Lars Kaario,  
Artistic Director

Linda Lysack,  
Manager

Elspeth Finlay,  
Choir Representative

Bruce Sled,  
Composer-in-Residence

Margaret Hill,  
Rehearsal Pianist

Catherine Crouch,  
Librarian

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Laudate Singers is a registered society with charitable status. Donations to the choir are therefore tax deductible. Please consider us when planning your charitable givings. You do make a difference!

## LAUDATE SINGERS



**LAUDATE SINGERS** was founded by its present artistic director Lars Kaario in 1995. This is a choir that capably and passionately presents the vast range of western choral arts music in all its glory.

The Singers' desire to celebrate and explore life through music is evident in their convincing interpretations of choral music from the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary periods. Laudate champions Canadian choral music, commissions many fine composers and maintains a composer-in-residence, currently Bruce Sled. They also have a part in performing new inter-cultural music drawing from a great many world traditions in its special relationship with the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra.

Much choral music is performed without accompaniment, "a cappella". But Laudate Singers also perform with some of Canada's finest instrumentalists, including La Cetra, Pacific Baroque Orchestra, CBC Vancouver Orchestra, Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra, Denis Bédard, Heidi Krutzen, Nancy DiNovo, Julia Nolan, David Branter, Karen Anne Shumka, Amy Stephen, Michael Viens, Gaye Alcott, Patricia Armstrong, Ariel Barnes, Ray Nurse, and Douglas Schmidt.

Laudate Singers reach out into the community to share choral music. They participate in community events such as North Vancouver City's Remembrance Day Ceremony, WinterSong, Scandinavian and Harmony Arts festivals, and have given a number of workshops with young choirs. Consistent with their education mandate, the Singers present special free Christmas concerts for young children and their families as well as specially composed educational concerts for school children.

Laudate Singers was honoured to be chosen to represent North Vancouver at the Chiba (Japan) Cultural Festival in October 2009. It was the featured choir at the VSO gala tribute to his Holiness the Dalai Lama in April 2004, has broadcast live for CBC Radio, been choir-in-residence at the International Choral Kathaumixw, given concerts throughout central BC, and performed in MusicFest Vancouver. Laudate discography includes *A Baroque Christmas*, *Christmas Journey*, *Songs of Heaven and Earth*, and *Celtic Journey*.

## Sparrow's Jigs

This is another nonsensical text with an original tune. Bruce Sled says: "Some of the words that are included in this piece are quotations from folksong lyrics that I have extended and altered. In most places I have invented them anew. This is an abridged version of the original composition commissioned by Laudate in 2007 and included on its *Celtic Journey* CD."

As long as the sparrow flies  
the barley grows as does the rye  
And all the while a lilting cry  
Oh, the sparrow is a-fiddling  
a tiny bow upon her wing  
As I roved out one May morning  
Oh, I heard my love so sweetly sing  
With shoes so black, and stockings white  
With hair as dark as night  
She had a dark and roving eye  
Oh, a shiny thing she longed to spy  
Her wings so quick upon the sky  
She left not a feather for me to sigh

## Dixie

This song comes from Harmonium, one of the most popular groups in Quebec in the 1970's. *Dixie* was on their second album, "*Si on avait besoin d'une cinquième saison*" a recording that tells of Montreal, a "city that manages to survive through the seasons", implying that weather conditions can be quite extreme there. *Dixie*, one of the most popular tunes on the LP, represents the summer. This joyous and colourful Dixieland-styled tune was a repertoire choice when the NSCE traveled to Québec in 2008.

It is interesting to note that all three studio albums recorded by the now defunct Harmonium (they lasted barely 7 years!) were named among the 100 greatest Canadian albums of all time in Bob Mersereau's book *The Top 100 Canadian Albums*.

Tell me what's that tune of yours  
That keeps buzzing in my ears all the time  
You know, I don't have much time anymore  
Not much time to fill my ears with music

Tell me what's your tune  
That keeps coming, like the sun, all the time  
When it [the sun] comes, it's never for a long time  
From time to time  
For a long time  
From time to time  
To warm my ears up

Hey, ya!  
Try doing something like that  
Take your fingers from your ears  
You! Try doing that

## Above the Field and the Glen

Composer Bruce Sled says, "*Above the Field and the Glen* was written especially for the North Shore Celtic Ensemble and Laudate Singers. I was inspired by the Celtic Ensemble's eclectic and exuberant interpretation of Celtic music. The text is reminiscent of many folksongs in that it expresses love

through an appreciation of nature." Its reflective and soulful tune is beautifully harmonized. The words conjure up images of relationship that is hopeful of being renewed. It is a bittersweet tune that suggests sadness in the past but hope for the future.

Above the field and the glen  
That's where we shall begin again  
Among the bluebells of the mountainside  
A place beyond us now  
Above the field and the glen  
That's where the mist will find its end  
And the sunlight is all around  
And all the world is clear.

Above the field and the glen  
We know we've reached it when  
The darkness is in the past  
And the sun is nearer still  
Above the field and the glen  
That's where we shall begin again  
Among the bluebells of the mountain side  
There I will wait for you

## Star of the County Down Cooney's Reel/Drowsy Maggie

*The Star of the County Down* is a classic folk ballad from the north coast of Ireland, telling the story of a young farmer who dreams of winning the heart of the fairest maiden in all of the land, from Bantry Bay in southwest County Cork, to Derry Quay in northeast County Down, and from Galway on the west coast to Dublin on the east. In the way of the folk process, the lyrics are thought to have been added in the late 1800's to a melody dating back to the 1600's that appears over the centuries in other airs, ballads and hymns.

The song is followed in this set by two Irish reels whose origins are lost in the mists of time. *Cooney's Reel* (or Cooley's) is often associated with the accordion player Joe Cooley, either because it was a favourite of his after the Second World War, or because he may have had a hand in reconstructing it from an earlier remembered tune. *Drowsy Maggie* is truly one of the "greatest hits" of Irish tunes, having been included in O'Neill's famous collection and travelled the world over, and is a favorite in Cape Breton.

The North Shore Celtic Ensemble recorded *Star of the County Down* and *Cooney's Reel* on their CD, *King's Set*, with special guest vocalist John Mann of Canadian folk icons, Spirit of the West.

In Banbridge town, near the County Down  
One morning last July  
On a breen green came a sweet colleen  
And she smiled as she passed me by.  
She looked so sweet from her two bare feet  
and the sheen of her nut-brown hair  
Such a coaxing elf, sure I shook myself  
For to see I was really there.

*Chorus:*

From Bantry Bay down to Derry Quay  
And from Galway to Dublin town  
No maid I've seen like the sweet colleen  
That I met in the County Down.

*Please turn page quietly*

As she onward sped, sure I scratched my head  
And I looked with a feeling rare  
And I said, says I, to a passerby  
“Who’s the maid with the nut-brown hair?”  
He smiled at me, and he says says he,  
“That’s the gem of Ireland’s crown.  
That’s young Rosie McCann from the banks of the Bann  
She’s the star of the County Down.”

At the harvest fair she’ll be surely there  
So I’ll dress in my Sunday clothes  
With my shoes shone bright and my hat cocked right  
For a smile from my nut-brown rose  
No pipe I’ll smoke, no horse I’ll yoke  
‘Til my plough is a rust-coloured brown  
By my own fireside, sits my smiling bride  
The star of the County Down.

## – INTERMISSION & RECEPTION –

### Media Vita

*Media Vita* draws from the Irish liturgy with this medieval Latin text and chant. Long ago, it was sung as part of a religious service performed before battle. It does have a dark quality but also exudes a powerful hope for a bright future.

In the midst of life we are in death  
What helper do we seek except you, O Lord  
Who may become rightfully angry because of our sins

*Chorus:*

Holy God, holy and powerful  
O holy compassionate savior  
Do not give us over to the harshness of death

In you our parents placed their hopes  
They placed their hopes and you freed them

In the midst of life we are in death

### Salve Rex Glorïae

McGlynn’s vibrant, earthy and heroic original text and music is written with a distinct Irish flavour. It uses a rhythmic ostinato sung by the basses, layered with several different melodies to create an intoxicating and hypnotic affect.

We awoke a great brown stag from the new grass  
Three great heroes woke with the sun  
On a misty morning three were as one  
Raise up your hunting spear.  
We are Oisín, Caoilte and Fionn  
Three great hunters and we follow the sun  
Through the mountains of Mish, and the heather and briar  
Through the green slopes of Cua with our hearts full of fire  
Raise up your hunting spear  
Danú, danú, danú, Goddess

### Blackthorn

This beautiful traditional Irish Gaelic text is set to a sweet and lyrical tune that is poignantly harmonized to express the text.

So many men think that I am theirs  
When I sit with them, when I drink with them  
Nothing compares to all that was shared  
Between you and I, between you and I  
Snow falls on the mountain of Sliabh Uí Fhloinn  
And my love is like sloe-blossom on the blackthorn  
So many men reach for the highest branch  
To find the bitter fruit, to find the bitter fruit  
Close within reach of the hand lies the sweetest berry  
On the lowest branch, on the lowest branch  
Snow falls on the mountain of Sliabh Uí Fhloinn  
And my love is like sloe-blossom on the blackthorn

### Jimmy’s Song

*Jimmy’s Song* was commissioned by Laudate Singers from then-composer-in-residence Kristopher Fulton and is included on its *Celtic Journey* CD. The song is based on an original historical fiction of Jimmy, a local Scottish boy who goes to fight in World War I and returns to continue his simple life at home. The piece is buoyant, optimistic and very lively.

To the pub to hear young Jimmy play  
that whistle fast or slow;  
no matter how much we’d all been drinkin’  
he’d play a tune before we’d go.  
Oh remember when those lads jumped Jimmy?  
He took a dram nice and slow  
and beat them senseless on his own  
and played them a tune afore lett’n ‘em go.  
Jimmy got a letter that said he was  
to march right off to war  
and had to leave his home  
and when he stood there shoulder to shoulder  
with the other lads on the front lines  
he held his rifle and whispered to himself  
“I’ll play them a tune before I go”.  
Back at home we sit and reminisce  
about the times when we stay at the pub  
to hear that boy stay and play until we’d all gone home,  
and when that boy comes back  
we’ll hear that whistle sound from over the hill  
that comes right into town  
then we’d know that Jimmy’s come back home.

### Johnson’s Landing

Adrian Dyck, the composer, writes of this newly written piece: “Each summer my wife and I have the privilege of spending two weeks in Johnson’s Landing in silent retreat engaging in the Buddhist practice of Vipassana meditation. This is truly a time for silence and reflection; a disciplined practice of turning inward while refraining from speaking, reading, writing or consuming any form of entertainment. One early summer morning during the 2010 retreat I walked to a nearby field overlooking Kootenay Lake to observe the sun rise. As the sun rose above the eastern Purcell Mountain range behind me, Kootenay Lake and the Selkirk Mountain range

to the west were flooded with the most beautiful golden light. In the silence and beauty of this moment the melody for *Johnson's Landing* began playing in my mind's ear and persisted for the remainder of the retreat. It is written for an ensemble of violins, guitar, bass, recorder and choir. You will notice that the choir does not sing a text. This is a song without words, appropriate to the context of wordless silence in which I discovered it."

### Flywheel/Mad Bulgar

*Flywheel* is the title of NSCE's newest CD produced in the spring of 2010. A flywheel is interesting to us for its capacity to store energy, therefore lending itself very well to what the NSCE is all about. *Mad Bulgar* is a very exciting Klezmer-style Bulgarian tune written by the Canadian fiddler Gordon Stobbe. Steven Cooke from the Halifax Mail Star describes the maritime fiddler in this manner: "With his rich tone and playful personal style, Stobbe is like the Jacques Cousteau of Canadian fiddling, exploring every nook and cranny of a sound that runs briskly through our cultural veins." We tend to agree with that assessment.

### Ashokan Farewell

Ashokan Farewell is a piece of music composed by Jay Ungar in 1982. It was later used as the title theme of the 1990 PBS television miniseries, *The Civil War* as well as the 1991 compilation album, *Songs of the Civil War*.

The sun is sinking low in the sky above Ashokan.  
The pines and the willows know soon we will part.  
There's a whisper in the wind of promises unspoken,  
And a love that will always remain in my heart.

My thoughts will return to the sound of your laughter,  
The magic of moving as one,  
And a time we'll remember long ever after  
The moonlight and music and dancing are done.

Will we climb the hills once more?  
Will we walk the woods together?  
Will I feel you holding me close once again?  
Will every song we've sung stay with us forever?  
Will you dance in my dreams or my arms until then?

Under the moon the mountains lie sleeping  
Over the lake the stars shine.  
They wonder if you and I will be keeping  
The magic and music, or leave them behind.



"Cuchulain Slays the Hound of Culin",  
illustration by Stephen Reid from Eleanor Hull's *The Boys' Cuchulain*, 1904

### Blood of the Cuchulainn

Cuchulainn is an Irish mythological hero who appears in the stories of the Ulster cycle, as well as in Scottish and Manx folklore. The son of the god Lug and Deichtine (sister of Conchobar mac Nessa), he was originally named Sétanta. He gained his better-known name as a child after he killed Culann's fierce guard-dog in self-defence, and offered to take its place until a replacement could be reared. At the age of seventeen he defended Ulster single-handedly against the armies of queen Medb of Connacht in the epic *Táin Bó Cúailnge* ("Cattle Raid of Cooley"). It was prophesied that his great deeds would give him everlasting fame, but that his life would be a short one. This is the reason why he is compared to the Greek hero Achilles. (*Wikipedia paraphrase*)

The song, *Blood of Cu Chulainn*, is the main theme song from the movie *The Boondock Saints*. This song, by Canadian musician and composer Jeff Danna, was released in 1999.

## Arrivederci Concert!

Capilano University Singers ☘ Director, Lars Kaario

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the night before they depart for their concert tour to Italy.

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The North Shore Celtic Ensemble presents

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