



# *Celtic Spring*

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

**Laudate Singers**  
Lars Kaario, Artistic Director

**Saturday May 3, 2014 / 8pm**  
**St Andrew's United Church, North Vancouver**



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

# WELCOME

Three years ago, the North Shore Celtic Ensemble and Laudate Singers made music together for the first time. It was so much fun that we just had to do it again! It is 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 the “home repertoire” for the NSCE and from there it embraces other genres; Laudate Singers has explored choral Celtic music in several concerts and often pushes the boundaries of choral music into new areas.

Works that each group has performed on their own in the past were revisited and revised to tap into the grander palette of sound created when instruments and voices are joined. We’re enjoying again two pieces we commissioned for our 2011 concert: *Johnson’s Landing* by Adrian Dyck, and *Lily of May* by Bruce Sled who was Laudate’s composer-in-residence at the time. We’ve called upon Bruce to arrange several new pieces for us this time too. And of course we are experiencing each other’s solo artistry within the realm of both traditional and Celtic-influenced music.

It has been an enriching experience for the two North Shore ensembles to work together. Thank you for joining us!

*The Artistic Directors ~*

*Lars Kaario, Laudate Singers*

*Claude Giguère and Jay Knutson, The North Shore Celtic Ensemble*

## LAUDATE SINGERS



**LARS KAARIO** is founder and director of the professional-level chamber choir Laudate Singers who have earned funding from the national, provincial and local levels of government as well as corporate and individual financial support.

Lars 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/instrumentalists, 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 Capilano University Singers and Capilano University Festival Chorus. He is also the head instructor in the University’s Conducting Certificate Program. Other ensembles he has directed include Cecilia Ensemble Women’s Choir, Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra, Pacific Baroque Orchestra, CBC Orchestra, West Coast Symphony, West Coast Summer Music Festival Orchestra and Chorus, Vancouver Cantata Singers, Greater Vancouver Operatic Society, and Theatre Under the Stars. He has performed leading roles in opera, light opera and music theatre. 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.

## NORTH SHORE CELTIC ENSEMBLE

**CLAUDE GIGUÈRE** has over 30 years of 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 Jay, 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 CD’s 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 Diabetes Association and Danish National Television. Jay has worked as a musical producer and arranger for over 30 albums. He has been with the North Shore Celtic Ensemble since its inception, providing leadership and musical support.



# Celtic Spring

Eliaxen Speli	trad. Finnish, arr. Antti Jarvela
Fantomen	Eric Öst, arr. Frigg
L'Envolée	Claude Giguère/Jay Knutson
Lily of May	Bruce Sled
Carrickfergus	trad. Irish, arr. B. Sled
Shivna	Bill Whelan
Cloudsong <i>solo: Catherine Crouch</i>	Bill Whelan
Bright Eyes	Oliver Schroer, arr. B. Sled
Fais Dodo	Cajun folksong
Rattlin' Roarin' Willie	trad. Scottish, arr. The Barra MacNeils, re-arr. B. Sled

## - INTERMISSION & RECEPTION -

The Heart's Cry <i>solo: Heidi Ackermann</i>	Bill Whelan
Watching the Apples Grow	Stan Rogers, arr. Ron Smail
Make and Break Harbour	Stan Rogers, arr. Ron Smail
Royal Hudson	Dave Baker, arr. Larry Nickel
Johnson's Landing	Adrian Dyck
Isflak	Catriona McKay & Chris Stout
Blood of the Cuchulainn	Mychael Danna & Jeff Danna

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## LAUDATE SINGERS

SOPRANO	ALTO	TENOR	BASS
Heidi Ackermann	Tami Copland	Marquis Byrd	Nicholas Read
Marina Bennett	Jocelyn Crandell	Hilary Crowther	Adam Turpin
Yasmine Bia	Miriam Davidson	Marco Del Rio	Andrew Wilson
Catherine Crouch	Elspeth Finlay	Chris Robinson	Joseph Young
Elyse Kantonen	Mavis Friesen	Nicholas Sommer	
Jennifer Katchur	Katie Horst		
Tiffany Oakes	Intan Purnomo		
Jenny Vermeulen			

## NORTH SHORE CELTIC ENSEMBLE

FIDDLES			FLUTE
Jessica Arthur	Cara Jacobsen	Jennifer Wildi	Kirin Lamb (guest)
Jayden Beedie	Julie Joyce	Andy Lang Wong	
Lena Benwood	Maren Lester		
Will Benwood	Mhairi MacCallum	PIANO	DRUMS
Emilia Davies	Sam Matsell	Jodie Cox	Gus Koenigsfest
Elan Failing	Jodie Nowell		
Kayley Hollyer	Emma Powers	RECORDER	BASS
Michelle Hoskin	Danielle Rowlands	Nina Houle	William Chernoff (guest)
	Brigit Sterry		

## SPECIAL GUEST INSTRUMENTALIST

Michael Viens,  
bodhrán and guitar



LAUDATE SINGERS

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## LAUDATE SINGERS



Laudate means praise, and for Laudate Singers, every concert is a joyful celebration. Founded in 1995 by current artistic director Lars Kaario, this professional chamber choir skillfully and passionately presents repertoire that spans centuries, cultures and genres. Whether it's medieval, Baroque, Renaissance, classical, Romantic or contemporary... great choral works of the Western canon or music from the Celtic, South African, Latin American, Chinese, Finnish, Quebecois, or Coast Salish traditions (to name only a few)... Laudate Singers combine technical artistry with the ability to make all kinds of choral music accessible, and the final result is always luminous and transcendent.

Laudate Singers are committed champions of Canadian choral music; the choir has maintained a composer-in-residence programme since 1995, and commissions and performs new Canadian works every season. Audiences at Laudate Singers' concerts are almost always guaranteed the thrill of knowing that some of the music they are listening to has never been heard in public before! The choir has recorded six critically-acclaimed CDs: *A Baroque Christmas*, *Christmas Journey*, *Songs of Heaven and Earth*, *Celtic Journey*, and *Voices, Sax & Syn*, and the brand new *Voice of the Tango*.

Laudate Singers firmly believe that music cannot happen in a vacuum; community outreach is a pillar of the choir's mandate. In addition to donning reindeer antlers and breaking out the jingle bells every year for their popular free family Christmas concerts, Laudate Singers have given workshops for young choirs and educational concerts for school children. Travelling farther afield, the choir was honoured to represent North Vancouver at the Chiba (Japan) Cultural Festival in October 2009. Laudate Singers were also featured in the VSO's gala tribute to his Holiness the Dalai Lama in April 2004, and were invited to be choir-in-residence at the International Choral Kathaumixw in 1996. The choir has given concerts throughout central BC, and has performed at West Vancouver's Harmony Arts Festival, WinterSong and MusicFest Vancouver. Laudate Singers have also undertaken stimulating, innovative partnerships with such ensembles as the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra, La Cetra, Pacific Baroque Orchestra, CBC Vancouver Orchestra. Finally, the choir is proud to collaborate with some of Canada's finest instrumentalists, including 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, Douglas Schmidt, Campbell Ryga and Ross Taggart.

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!





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#### North Shore Celtic Ensemble

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The NSCE is a registered BC  
Society with charitable status.

## NORTH SHORE CELTIC ENSEMBLE



**THE NORTH SHORE CELTIC ENSEMBLE (NSCE)** is one of BC's best young performing arts groups. Directed by professional musicians Claude Giguère and Jay Knutson, the Ensemble brings raw energy and a whole new style to the Vancouver music scene. What started as celtic is now a spirited original repertoire that reflects a dynamic mix of musical influences – celtic, jazz, classical, folk, and more – creating an exciting genre-spanning experience for the players and the audience.

NSCE is all about engaging and empowering youth, especially to creating the skills, motivation and lifelong habit of giving back to communities through music. In 1999, artistic directors Claude Giguère and Jay Knutson gathered a small group of kids in a school basement and imagined a whole new way to bring music to kids and communities. Today, they help sixty young musicians in three programmes to do more and go further with music. Through innovative music programmes, community events and artistic collaborations, NSCE inspires kids to explore who they are as musicians, to push themselves artistically, and to come into their own as socially-conscious members of the community.

The Senior Ensemble is a high performing artistic group, designed for experienced players between the ages of 14 and 18. The emphasis is on growing and developing as musicians, exploring new musical ideas and artistic directions, and developing leadership. The social aspect of the programme is still strong, but Senior Ensemble projects and performances are professional events with high standards for artistic quality. The kids at this level have a strong commitment and passion for music.

The Senior programme provides a rich environment for artistic development. Performances are a key focus, and players typically perform in 15-20 performances per year. Rehearsals focus on the finer aspects of ensemble playing skills and on exploring new musical ideas. Every year we mount a major self-produced show, which we take from initial concept, through creative development and mastery of the material, to culminate in our Winter Concert Series. We also present an annual show to celebrate French culture and community on the west coast.

Every second year we produce a CD to showcase our music. Ensemble members are involved in all aspects of CD production, from concept and composition to sound engineering and cover art. Tours are important professional development opportunities, exposing players to new performers, venues and experiences. Extended tours are planned every two years.

Retreats, artistic development sessions and workshops occur throughout the year. A range of social gatherings round out the programme, from informal jam sessions to a more organized annual ceilidh.

While some NSCE players will go on to become professional musicians, the programmes are primarily focused on giving kids the skills and experiences that will make music a meaningful and lasting part of their lives.

## NOTES

### Eliaxen Speli/Fantomen

During their participation at the Mission Folk Festival close to a decade ago, the NSCE heard Frigg for the first time. This most lively fiddling group from Scandinavia dazzled with their clever harmonies, quirky melodies and crooked rhythms. This is what Rob Adams from the Herald (Scotland) recently had to say about them: *"...their four fiddle frontline creating a fabulously philharmonic sound on the most direct and hard hitting of polkas and other traditional dance tune styles and conjuring up madness, mischief and heart-soaring beauty seemingly at will on their more adventurous compositions."*

Ever since that fortuitous meeting, the NSCE has made numerous arrangements of their music. These two tunes are a good example of the spirit of Frigg.

### L'Envolée

With exposure to groups like Frigg and to fiddlers like Oliver Schroer, the NSCE has been inspired to develop its own voice. In fact, ever since recording their third CD, original compositions from members of the ensemble have been regularly featured on recordings. L'Envolée (meaning "taking flight") is an uplifting original composition from the artistic directors.

### Lily of May

Bruce Sled wrote this piece for our 2011 concert together. Lily of May is inspired by a style of Celtic music that uses nonsense texts. This type of music has many names including puirt-a-beul, mouth music, diddling, lilting, or jigging. The lyrics were often freely invented and chosen for their rhythmic qualities rather than their meaning. Sometimes the words were used to call dance steps or to imitate instruments, such as the bagpipes. In fact, the rise of this style may have resulted from the banning of pipes after the Jacobite uprising in 1745, or the religious opposition to musical instruments at its height in the mid-19th century. Lily of May imitates this style of Celtic music but does not use any traditional folk tunes.



Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland

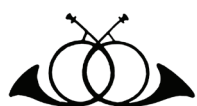
### Carrickfergus

Carrickfergus is a very popular Irish folksong although its rather disjointed text is a mystery. It may have been based on a Gaelic song, Do bhi bean uasal from the 1700's. It was not widely known until the 1960's when the Irish singer Dominic Behan recorded it, evidently after the actor Peter O'Toole taught it to him as one of his favourite Irish ballads. *"For all their faults, the lyrics still conjure up a sense of sadness and nostalgia and when coupled with such a beautiful, soaring melody, the effect is quite magical."* (irishmusicdaily.com)

### Shivna & Cloudsong

Bill Whelan is an Irish composer, producer and arranger. He is best known for writing Riverdance, which began as a short song and dance for the 1995 Eurovision Song Contest and grew to a full-length extravaganza that toured the world, making Irish dancing and music a hugely popular genre. Today we sing three of Whelan's songs from Riverdance: Cloudsong, The Heart's Cry, and Shivna.

**Shivna:** Based on a collection of medieval Irish poetry, the song tells of Shivna, or Suibhne, a legendary king in Ireland, who goes mad, possibly cursed by Bishop Ronan Finn for



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some unknown transgression or perhaps from the noise of a battle. He sprouts feathers like a bird and flies through the trees for seven years. In the full story, he relates his many torments and describes nature. Mad Sweeney is the anglicized version of the story.



Sculpture by Holger Lonze of Ireland. Inspired by the adventures of Suibhne/Shivna

**Cloudsong** is the first choral section from Riverdance. Starting with solo soprano and then joined by full chorus, this piece tells the story of the origins of the river and its journey towards the sea, nourishing the land as it flows through it. ([www.schott-music.com](http://www.schott-music.com))

### Bright Eyes/Fais Dodo

A consummate performer and an inspiration to countless young musicians and music lovers, Oliver Schroer was a prolific creator of music. Bright Eyes, one of his lovely waltzes is paired here with the Cajun song Fais Dodo. A 'fais do-do' is a sort of Cajun dance party usually lasting 'all night long'. Cajun tunes always have had a mysterious origin. They are handed down from generation to generation, each adding their own embellishments; a true tradition in French, English or Cajun Patois.

### Rattlin' Roarin' Willie

This song has been almost 300 years in the making!

Robbie Burns, the famous Scottish bard, had an interest in preserving old Scottish songs and when James Johnson approached him in 1786 to create the very important *Scots Musical Museum*, he became an enthusiastic contributor. As well as collecting old songs, Burns wrote new words to old tunes and also added verses to existing ones. This is the case with Rattlin' Roarin' Willie, a very well known song of the time, that Burns felt compelled to archive adding a third verse of his own. The adaptation you will hear tonight is from a classic arrangement of this song by the Barra MacNeils, a well-known Canadian band from Nova Scotia. Bruce Sled has revisited the score and added a few more voices to the mix.

### The Heart's Cry

The Heart's Cry, another of Bill Whelan's creations for Riverdance, was written in praise of feminine qualities. The text refers to the salmon and the eagle. The salmon was traditionally a symbol for wisdom in Irish folklore, and its daring journey back to its birthplace is a wonderful example of the powerful instinct to procreate in nature. The eagle's fierce protection of its young is a symbol for motherhood. ([www.schott-music.com](http://www.schott-music.com))

### Watching the Apples Grow

*"A Canadian national hero and an international folk legend, Stan Rogers instigated the Celtic music renaissance in North America, performing his Maritime-style music on the folk circuit from Cape Breton to San Francisco, from the Arctic Circle to the Rio Grande River."* ([stanrogers.net](http://stanrogers.net)) Watching the Apples Grow was one of Stan's earliest songs and is the first song on his first album, Fogarty's Cove. In it, he's working on an apple farm in Ontario but longing to be living in Nova Scotia.

### Make and Break Harbour

Make and Break Harbour is a lament for the fishing industry in Atlantic Canada. Stan Rogers was born in Ontario but his heart seemed to be in the Maritimes where his parents had been raised and where he spent many summers. *"There are so many great songs, but if you lived this life, this one transcends mere words and music - it's like Stan looked into your heart, sounded its depths, and painted a moving portrait, timed to wind, tide and wave."* (Brent Wade, comment on YouTube video)

### Royal Hudson

In 1939, King George and Queen Elizabeth travelled across Canada by train, pulled by the engine named Hudson 2850. In honour of the trip, many Hudsons were designated as Royal Hudsons. One of them, Royal Hudson 2860, was built in the 1930's and served as a Canadian Pacific Railway locomotive in B.C. for many years. After being restored in the 1960's, it ran a tourist route for two decades from North Vancouver to Squamish. Dave Baker has spent his life writing songs about BC history and life and Larry Nickel has made a terrific arrangement of this great piece.

### Johnson's Landing

Adrian Dyck, the composer, writes of this piece he wrote for Laudate and NSCE: "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

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#### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- ❖ Bruce Sled, arranger/composer
- ❖ Susan Robertson & the NSCE volunteer team
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- ❖ Matthew Stephanson, recording engineer
- ❖ St. Andrew's United Church
- ❖ José Verstappen, programme design
- ❖ DesignStile, graphic design
- ❖ Mucky Dog Web Projects, website



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."

### Isflak

In the summer of 2013, the NSCE travelled to Aberdeen, Scotland, to take part in the prestigious Aberdeen International Youth Festival. A highlight of this trip was their wonderful collaboration with the Scottish Ensemble (the UK's only professional string orchestra), the Dutch Youth String Orchestra and two bright lights on the Celtic scene, the duo of harpist Catriona McKay and fiddler Chris Stout. In order to tap into those previous moments of sheer delight the NSCE has made an arrangement of Isflak, one of the compositions on the programme that night in Aberdeen. It is built in three sections with each one constructed of small eight bar phrases. It retains the Celtic tradition of tune sets put together and yet gives the impression of a more complex form of writing.

### Blood of the Cuchulainn

Cuchulainn is an Irish mythological hero. The son of the god Lugh and Deichtine (sister of Conchobar mac Nessa, the king of Ulster), he was originally named Sétanta. He gained his better-known name as a child after he killed the smith's Culann's fierce guard-dog in self-defense, and offered to take its place until its replacement could be reared. There are many stories about Cuchulainn. It was prophesied that his great deeds would give him everlasting fame, but that his life would be a short one. (Wikipedia paraphrase) Blood of the Cuchulainn is the main theme song from the movie The Boondock Saints and was written by Canadian brothers and composers Jeff and Mychael Danna in 1999.

## DONORS MUCH APPRECIATED

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the City and District of North Vancouver through The Arts Office, the District of West Vancouver, Canada Council for the Arts, the Province of British Columbia, and BC Arts Council. These are competitive grants and we feel honoured in winning them.

Our deep appreciation to our many private donors. You make us sing!

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