

Brilliant Baroque

Laudate Singers and Instrumentalists

Lars Kaario, Artistic Director

Sunday December 15, 2013 / 3pm St Andrew's United Church, North Vancouver













Conseil des Arts du Canada







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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!

WELCOME

Welcome to Laudate Singers' Christmas celebration. It has been such a pleasure to work on this glorious music from three of the great Baroque composers. While challenging, the work is rewarded richly. Our hope is that the joy that we as musicians have felt in its preparation and performance is transmitted to you.

Merry Christmas!

Lars Kaario Artistic Director

LAUDATE SINGERS

SOPRANO
Heidi Ackermann
Marina Bennett
Yasmine Bia
Catherine Crouch
Elyse Kantonen
Jennifer Katchur

Tiffany Oakes Jenny Vermeulen ALTO
Tami Copland
Miriam Davidson
Elspeth Finlay
Mavis Friesen
Katie Horst
Intan Purnomo

TENOR Hilary Crowther Marco Del Rio Chris Robinson Nicholas Sommer BASS Nicholas Read George Roberts Adam Turpin Andrew Wilson Joseph Young

GUEST SINGERS

Mark Donnelly, countertenor

Mark De Silva, tenor

GUEST INSTRUMENTALISTS

VIOLIN I

Nancy DiNovo, principal Denis Letourneau Susan Schaffer

VIOLIN II

Carolyn Cole, principal Bryan King

> VIOLA Marcus Takizawa

> > CELLO Heather Hay

BASS Anne Duranceau

> THEORBO Ray Nurse

> > OBOE

Marea Chernoff, principal Erin Marks

> BASSOON Katrina Russell

ORGAN & HARPSICHORD Christopher Bagan

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- St. Andrew's United Church
- Our front-of-house volunteer team
- Intan Purnomo, Gordon Finlay and Dave Alexander, visuals
- Matthew Stephanson, recording engineer
- José Verstappen, programme design
- DesignStile, graphic design
- Mucky Dog Web Projects, website

Brilliant Baroque

Ouverture to Orchestral Suite #1 in C major, BWV 1066

Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248, Part V

J.S. Bach

Chorus Ehre sei dir, Gott, gesungen

Tenor recitative Da Jesus geboren war zu Bethlehem Chorus Wo ist der neugeborne König der Juden

Alto recitative
Chorus
Wir haben seinen Stern gesehen
Alto recitative
Wohl euch, die ihr dies Licht gesehen
Chorale
Dein Glanz all Finsternis verzehrt
Bass aria
Erleucht auch meine finstre Sinnen
Tenor recitative
Da das der König Herodes hörte
Alto recitative
Warum wollt ihr erschrecken

Tenor recitative Und liess versammlen alle Hohepriester Trio–soprano, alto, tenor Ach! wenn wird die Zeit erscheinen?

Alto recitative Mein Liebster herrscht schon Chorale Zwar ist solche Herzensstube

Soloists:

Soprano – Marina Bennett Countertenor – Mark Donnelly Tenor – Mark De Silva Bass – George Roberts

- INTERMISSION / RECEPTION -

Magnificat à 8 voci, da Selva morale e spirituale 1640

Claudio Monteverdi 1567-1643

Soloists:

Soprano – Catherine Crouch, Elyse Kantonen Tenor – Mark De Silva, Nicholas Sommer Bass – George Roberts, Adam Turpin

Winter from The Four Seasons

Antonio Vivaldi 1678-1741

Allegro non molto ~ Largo ~ Allegro

Nancy Di Novo, solo violin

Magnificat, RV610 A. Vivaldi

Chorus Magnificat
 Soprano, alto, tenor & chorus Et exultavit

3. Chorus Et misericordia eius
4. Chorus Fecit potentiam
5. Chorus Deposuit potentes

6. Soprano duet
Esurientes
6a. Countertenor
Esurientes
7. Chorus
Suscepit Israel
8. Chorus
Sicut locutus est
8a. Countertenor
Sicut locutus est
9. Chorus
Gloria Patri

Soloists

Soprano – Catherine Crouch, Elspeth Finlay Countertenor – Mark Donnelly Tenor – Mark De Silva

NOTES

Johann Sebastian Bach was an amazingly prolific composer. He wrote four orchestral suites – not many considering the popularity of this entertaining genre in Germany at the time. We are playing the **Overture from Suite No. 1 in C major**. It is in the French style, with its majestic opening section followed by a fast fugal section. The joy and energy of this lighthearted Bach is appropriate for this happy season of Christmas.

Christmas Oratorio, or Weihnachts-Oratorium in German, is actually in six parts; a cantata for each feast day from Christmas to Epiphany. Part V, which we sing today, is entitled Ehre se dir, Gott, gesungen - Glory be to Thee, O Lord, and was written for the 2nd Sunday after Christmas Day. It is the story of the wisemen searching for the newborn Jesus, of Herod's concerns about a possible new competitor – but mostly it rejoices in the light of Christ, the promise of Jesus bringing comfort and joy to humanity. Bach was music director at Thomaskirche in Leipzig from 1723 until his death in 1750. The Christmas Oratorio was written in 1734 and was performed here through that Christmas week. The texts were a combination of scripture and poetry by Picander, a local poet whose works Bach frequently used.



Adoration of the Magi (Kempe), photo by Dave Webster, 2010, flickr.com

Claudio Monteverdi was a church musician from an early age, a singer, organist and viol player, and was strongly influenced by the operas composed in his day. He wrote many fine operas himself which were highly innovative for their time. It was during his tenure as maestro di cappella at St. Mark's beginning in 1613 that his fame spread. Perhaps his most famous work is his Vespers of 1610 written before his appointment in Venice and which he used as an audition piece to show his skills in composition. In his early 70s, just a few years before his death, Monteverdi published two large compilations of his vocal works written in Venice, mostly for presentation at Saint Mark's, called the Selva morale et spirituale (Moral and Spiritual Forest). Today we present the Magnificat à 8 voci. It is extremely expressive and declamatory in style. As in his operas, the music is dramatic and communicative.

Antonio Vivaldi spent most of his working life at the Ospedale della Pietà in Venice, teaching and composing

music for the young women who lived there. **The Four Seasons** is Vivaldi's most popular work today. For each of the seasons, Vivaldi wrote a sonnet that he then musically portrayed. These works are highly virtuosic. In Winter, you can feel the bite of the weather, the warmth of the hearth, the fear of slipping on ice. Enjoy the sonnet in the Texts and Translations section of this programme.

Vivaldi wrote many choral works for the young women that were easily transcribed for mixed voice ensembles. Composers wrote for the performers available and so Vivaldi wrote several versions of the **Magnificat**. Today we perform the first version for mixed choir, soloists and orchestra but include two additional alto arias from a later version. This Magnificat is both dramatic and lyrical. It incorporates bold harmonic movement with great tension through his use of chromatic lines and suspensions.

- Lars Kaario

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Christmas Oratorio, Part V

Chorus:

Ehre sei dir, Gott, gesungen,
Let honour to you, God, be sung
Dir sei Lob und Dank bereit.
For you let praise and thanks be prepared.
Dich erhebet alle Welt,
All the world exalts you
Weil dir unser Wohl gefällt,
Because our welfare is pleasing to you,
Weil anheut
Because today
Unser aller Wunsch gelungen,
All our wishes have been achieved,
Weil uns dein Segen so herrlich erfreut.
Because your blessing delights us so gloriously.

Tenor recitative - Evangelist:

Da Jesus geboren war zu Bethlehem im jüdischen Lande zur Zeit des Königes Herodis,

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the land of the Jews at the time of King Herod,

siehe, da kamen die Weisen vom Morgenlande gen Jerusalem und sprachen.

See, there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem and said:

Chorus - Wise Men:

Wo ist der neugeborne König der Jüden? Where is the newborn King of the Jews?

Alto recitative:

Sucht ihn in meiner Brust, Look for him in my breast, Hier wohnt er, mir und ihm zur Lust! Here he lives, to my delight and his!

Chorus - Wise Men:

Wir haben seinen Stern gesehen im Morgenlande und sind kommen, ihn anzubeten.

We have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him.

Alto recitative:

Wohl euch, die ihr dies Licht gesehen, Happy are you who have seen the light, Es ist zu eurem Heil geschehen! It has appeared for your salvation! Mein Heiland, du, du bist das Licht, My saviour, you, you are the light Das auch den Heiden scheinen sollen, Which shall shine on the Gentiles also Und sie, sie kennen dich noch nicht, And they, they do not know you yet, Als sie dich schon verehren wollen. Though they would already worship you Wie hell, wie klar muss nicht dein Schein, How bright, how clear must your radiance be, Geliebter Jesu, sein! Beloved Jesus!

Chorale:

Dein Glanz all Finsternis verzehrt, Your splendour consumes all darkness, Die trübe Nacht in Licht verkehrt. The gloomy night is changed to light Leit uns auf deinen Wegen, Lead us in your ways, Dass dein Gesicht So that your face Und herrlichs Licht And your glorious light Wir ewig schauen mögen! We may see forever!

Bass aria:

Erleucht auch meine finstre Sinnen, Illuminate also my gloomy thoughts
Erleuchte mein Herze
Illuminate my heart
Durch der Strahlen klaren Schein!
With the rays of your clear light!
Dein Wort soll mir die hellste Kerze
Your word will be the brightest candle for me
In allen meinen Werken sein;
In all my deeds;
Dies lässet die Seele nichts Böses beginnen.
This lets my soul begin nothing evil

Tenor recitative - Evangelist

Da das der König Herodes hörte, erschrak er und mit ihm das ganze Jerusalem. When King Herod heard this he was afraid and with him all

Vhen King Herod heard this he was afraid and with him all Ierusalem.

Alto recitative -

Warum wollt ihr erschrecken?

Why are you afraid?

Kann meines Jesu Gegenwart euch solche Furcht erwecken?

Can the presence of my Jesus arouse such fear in you?

O! solltet ihr euch nicht

Oh! should you not rather

Vielmehr darüber freuen,

Rejoice over this

Weil er dadurch verspricht,

For he promises in this way.

For he promises in this way
Der Menschen Wohlfahrt zu verneuen.
To restore the well-being of mankind.

Tenor recitative - Evangelist:

Und ließ versammlen alle Hohepriester und Schriftgelehrten unter dem Volk

And he gathered together all the high priests and scribes among the people

und erforschete von ihnen, wo Christus sollte geboren werden.

And demanded of them where the Christ should be born. Und sie sagten ihm: Zu Bethlehem im jüdischen Lande; And they said to him: in Bethlehem in the land of the Jews; denn also stehet geschrieben durch den Propheten: For it is written by the prophets:
Und du Bethlehem im jüdischen Lande bist mitnichten die kleinest unter den Fürsten Juda;
And you, Bethlehem in the land of the Jews, are not the least among the princes of Judah denn aus dir soll mir kommen der Herzog,
From you will come the prince der über mein Volk Israel ein Herr sei.
Who will be the lord over my people Israel.

Trio:

Ach, wenn wird die Zeit erscheinen?

Ah, when will the time appear?

Ach, wenn kömmt der Trost der Seinen?

Ah, when will he who is the comfort of his people come?

Schweigt, er ist schon würklich hier!

Be silent, he is really already here!

Jesu, ach so komm zu mir!

Jesus, ah, then come to me!

Alto recitative:

Mein Liebster herrschet schon. *My beloved already rules*. Ein Herz, das seine Herrschaft liebet *A heart that loves his dominion* Und sich ihm ganz zu eigen gibet, *And gives itself completely to him as his own* Ist meines Jesu Thron. *Is the throne of my Jesus*.

Chorale:

Zwar ist solche Herzensstube Indeed such a room in my heart Wohl kein schöner Fürstensaal, Is certainly no fine royal palace Sondern eine finstre Grube; But rather a dark pit; Doch, sobald dein Gnadenstrahl Yet, as soon as the rays of your mercy In denselben nur wird blinken, Only gleam within there Wird es voller Sonnen dünken. It will seem filled with sunlight.

Magnificat

Magnificat anima mea Dominum *My soul magnifies the Lord.*

Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.

And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ:

For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden:
ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes generationes.
for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est: et sanctum nomen ejus.

For he who is mighty has done great things to me, and holy is his name. Et misericordia ejus a progenie in progenies timentibus eum.

And his mercy is on them who fear him from generation to generation.

Fecit potentiam in bracchio suo: He has shown strength with his arm; dispersit superbos mente cordis sui. he has scattered the proud, even the arrogant of heart.

Deposuit potentes de sede, et exaltavit humiles. *He has deposed the mighty from their seats, and exalted the humble.*

Esurientes implevit bonis: The hungry he has filled with good things et divites dimisit inanes. and the rich he has sent empty away.

Suscepit Israel puerum suum, recordatus misericordiæ suæ. *He has helped his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy.*

Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, *As it was spoken to our fathers*Abraham et semini ejus in sæcula. *to Abraham and his seed for ever.*

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,* Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, *As it was in the beginning, is now* et in sæcula sæculorum, Amen. *and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.*

Winter, from Four Seasons

Allegro non molto -

Shivering, frozen mid the frosty snow in biting, stinging winds:

running to and fro to stamp one's icy feet, teeth chattering in the bitter chill.

Largo -

To rest contentedly beside the hearth, while those outside are drenched by pouring rain.

Allegro –

We tread the icy path slowly and cautiously, for fear of tripping and falling.

Then turn abruptly, slip, crash on the ground and, rising, hasten on across the ice lest it cracks up.

We feel the chill north winds coarse through the home despite the locked and bolted doors...

this is winter, which nonetheless brings its own delights.



THE MUSICIANS



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-inresidence 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-inresidence 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.



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.

GUEST SOLOISTS

Mark Donnelly began his singing career as a chorister in one of Canada's foremost Men and Boy's Choirs – at St. Matthew's Church in Ottawa, his home city. He has recently been studying with Nancy Argenta, Ingrid Attrot, and Robert Holliston. Mark's recent opera, oratorio, and recital performances have attracted critical acclaim, and include Nerone in Monteverdi's l'Incoronazione di Poppea, Oberon in Britten's Midsummer Night's Dream, Toby in Menotti's The Medium, Bach's St. John Passion, Purcell's Sound the Trumpet, Beat the Drum, Purcell's Welcome to all the Pleasures, Arvo Pärt's Passio, Handel's Messiah, Benjamin

Britten's Canticle IV Abraham and Isaac, Purcell songs, and the swan in Orff's Carmina Burana. Mark enjoys collaborating on innovative works and performance that extend the traditional countertenor repertoire. Donnelly's upcoming roles include The Sorceror in a fully staged production of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, Monteverdi's Vespers, Britten's Canticles, and a collaborative project of new arrangements of Dowland songs by Canadian composers. While completing his undergraduate studies, he studied voice with Jan Simons (McGill University) and Bruce Pullen (UBC). Mark has sung in Canada, the US, the UK, and South Africa.

MARK DE SILVA received his early musical training in violin and voice in Malaysia and England. In Canada, he studied with George Roberts, Eric Hannan, Peter Butterfield and Bruce Pullan. He was a member of Laudate Singers for many years and has also sung with the Vancouver Chamber Choir. Mark has been tenor soloist with many BC choirs and orchestras, has performed as soloist at the BC Choral Federation Chorfest, Festival Vancouver, and on national CBC radio broadcasts with Laudate Singers, Vancouver Cantata Singers and the CBC Orchestra. He also appears as a soloist on CD recordings of Laudate Singers. He has toured Canada and internationally with various ensembles. In 2009, he was a member of the visiting guest opera chorus in the Singapore Symphony Orchestra's 30th Anniversary Gala concert performance of Richard Strauss' Elektra, directed by Kent Nagano. Mark enjoys singing repertoire from the Baroque to contemporary music. His recital performances include Lieder of Schubert, Brahms and Strauss, and Art Songs of Barber, Britten and Vaughan Williams. His oratorio solo appearances include Bach's St. Matthew Passion, St. John Passion, Mass in B minor, and Monteverdi's 1610 Vespers, with VancouverVoices; Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Requiem, Haydn's Harmoniemesse and Schöpfungsmesse with the Handel Society Choir; and Stravinsky's Cantata with the Turning Point Ensemble and Vancouver Cantata Singers.

Nancy DiNovo, violin, is one of Laudate Singers' most frequent and popular instrumentalists. A former member of the St. Louis, Toronto and Boston Symphony Orchestras and founding concertmaster of the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Nancy DiNovo enjoys a multifaceted career. An avid chamber musician and director of the "DiNovo and Friends" chamber music series, Nancy performs solo and chamber music recitals in styles ranging from period instrument to contemporary. Her many concerto credits include the Banff and Victoria premières of the Kurt Weill Violin Concerto. She has premièred a number of works written especially for her, including the Barnes Violin Concerto with Sir Neville Marriner conducting, and the CBC première of the Walter Buczynski Violin Sonata. She has been a guest concertmaster with the Canadian Chamber Ensemble, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Kitchener-Waterloo, Edmonton and Victoria Symphonies, CBC Radio Orchestra, "Music of the Night" cross-Canada tour, and Pacific Opera Victoria where she has led operas in styles ranging from period instrument Handel to Berg's "Wozzeck".

An enthusiastic teacher, Nancy has taught at Tanglewood, the Marrowstone Festival, Western Washington University, UBC, U Vic, and Capilano University. Nancy has recorded for CBC Radio, Earsay Records, and with the Elektra Women's Choir.



Coming Concerts

Subscriptions are available tonight for the 2013-2014 main series, reduced by the cost of today's concert. Memberships in the Society, entitling you to several benefits including one free concert ticket, are also available.

North American Sound

- Saturday March 1, 2014 @ 8pm at St Andrews United, North Vancouver
- Friday March 7, 2014 @ 8pm at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver (featuring organist Denis Bédard)

Two versions of this concert, celebrating favourite living composers such as Eric Whitacre, Stephen Chatman and Morten Lauridsen, with new commissions by Kristopher Fulton and Ed Henderson.

Celtic Spring

■ Saturday May 3, 2014 @ 8pm at St Andrews United, North Vancouver

Celebrate a blend of old and new Celtic styles with Laudate Singers and the irrepressible North Shore Celtic Ensemble!

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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Voice of the Tango

Brand new release.

This May 2013 live recording features the choir with guest tango artists Tangissimo:

Linda Lee Thomas – piano, Ed Henderson – guitar, and Jonathan Goldman – bandoneon.

Other Laudate Singers CDs available this evening or from our website:

Voices, Sax & Syn Celtic Journey A Baroque Christmas Songs of Heaven and Earth



