



LAUDATE  
SINGERS

Lars Kaario, Artistic Director



# Canadian Mosaic

*Celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Experience glorious Canadian choral music surrounded by stunning Canadian art.*

8PM SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2017 | GORDON SMITH GALLERY OF CANADIAN ART

LAUDATESINGERS.COM



LAUDATE SINGERS

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**Laudate Singers Society**

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LAUDATE SINGERS

**Soprano**

Yasmine Bia  
Rachel Buttress  
Julie Nadalini  
Elyse Kantonen  
Jennifer Katchur  
Jenny Vermeulen

**Alto**

Hilary Crowther  
Miriam Davidson  
Elsbeth Finlay  
Katie Horst  
Charmaine Iormetti

**Tenor**

Bryce Hocken  
Lyle Isbister  
Chris Robinson  
Nicholas Sommer  
Daniel Young

**Bass**

Marco Del Rio  
Dennis Eriks  
Preston Lee  
Adam Turpin  
Eric Wettstein

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- ❖ Our front-of-house volunteer team
- ❖ Gordon Smith Art Gallery, particularly Yolande Martinello
- ❖ St. Andrew's United Church for their sponsorship
- ❖ Carolyn Turpin and Lesley Finlay, refreshments
- ❖ Susana Valente, sound/recording engineer
- ❖ Contact Printing, programme design & printing
- ❖ Annika Langeloo Design, graphic design
- ❖ Mucky Dog Web Projects, website
- ❖ North Shore News, promotion

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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!

# CANADIAN MOSAIC

# TEXTS, TRANSLATIONS & NOTES

## If You Could Wear My Sneakers

Scott Macmillan b.1955

If You Could Wear My Sneakers!  
The Way It Is  
The Beagle and the Beluga and the Eagle's Fine Times

## Quatre Églogues, opus 42

Alain Gagnon b.1938

Évasion  
Crépuscule d'automne  
Petite chimère  
Panorama d'été

## Tabula Rasa

Don Macdonald b.1966

## Song ("And I think over again")

arr. Imant Raminsh b.1943

## Miniwanka, or The Moments of Water

R. Murray Schafer b.1933

## – INTERMISSION / RECEPTION –

## The Wife *World premiere*

Eric Wettstein

## Floating with Flowing Waters

Mark Armanini b.1956

## The Log Driver's Waltz

Wade Hemsworth 1916-2002  
arr. Ron Smail

*Soloist: Elyse Kantonen*

## Sunset (a BC Cowboy's Lament)

arr. Imant Raminsh b.1943

*Soloist: Adam Turpin*

## Train

Stephen Chatman b.1950

## Prairie Lullaby

Stephen Chatman b.1950

*Soloist: Yasmine Bia*

## Lukey's Boat (Nova Scotia folk song)

arr. Stephen Chatman b.1950

The composers whose works we hear today are from across this vast nation of ours – Vancouver to Halifax – and their music celebrates our natural beauty, history, cultural diversity, lifestyles and music itself.

## If You Could Wear My Sneakers!

is a wonderful book of children's poems by Canadian Sheree Fitch wherein she interprets into poetry fifteen of the 54 articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Scott Macmillan of Nova Scotia put three of these poems to music. The first delivers the message that all rights apply to all children without exception. The Way It Is tells us that disabled children have the right to special care to enjoy full life in dignity. The last song tells us that children have the right to leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities.

## Quatre Églogues

Four short pastoral poems, idealize country life with a symbolic description of nature where one lives in beauty and harmony. Alain Gagnon is professor at the École de musique of Laval University in Québec City. He is also a poet and visual artist using vibrant colour and stylized figures.

## Évasion (Evasion)

Do you see it  
Over there  
In the mist  
The boat  
That departs  
On the sea foam  
In the dark crystal  
It settles (ensconced in the dark crystal)

And ties its pure marble  
To the thorns.  
To the murmuring of the wind  
It falls asleep  
Where the waters evaporate.  
And like a dream  
It leaves...

## Crépuscule d'automne (Autumn Evening)

The evening  
To drink the crystal  
Of the wakening morning  
And to see the night  
To flee  
Without a sound

Like life  
I listen  
And breathe no more  
From the tips of its fingers  
To beyond the fallen branch  
Spring time has aged this evening

### Petite chimère (Little Chimera)

A fringe of water	A fringe of water
Dreams of a fountain	Dreams of a fountain
And dies in the evening	And dies in the evening
Like the voice of an echo	Like the voice of an echo
The sea foam emerges from the waves	Silver flower that reflects
Turning the beaches grey	Veined with blood
And the Earth unveils her power	When she cries

### Panorama d'été (Summer Panorama)

Look	On the mirror
The bird sleeps	To silence gentle death
Smiling	And the wind
In its blue shell	Furrowing green pains
And its clear tears	Do you see
Fragility of a child	Very fondly I hope
Look	The sun

**Don Macdonald** lives in Nelson, BC, and has a multifaceted musical career. His composition credits include music for theatre, dance, vocal arrangements, from jazz and electronica to contemporary classical music. He has written soundtracks to over 50 film and television productions and has received numerous awards for these. Macdonald had a specific image in mind when composing Tabula Rasa: "A quiet moment between a mother and child when the mother sees, as she has never seen, the potential of the precious life she holds in her arms. A silent acknowledgement of her child and every child as a "blank slate" with seemingly limitless potential." His wife Alison Girvan wrote the words (in Spanish) to convey his thoughts after he had composed much of it already.

In my arms, breathe.	Freedom to grown,
Life without limits.	Freedom to learn,
Light of day, dark night.	Freedom to touch,
Sleep, dream, rest in safety.	Freedom to feel,
With your heart, your soul,	Freedom to imagine,
Listen and know this truth:	Freedom to fly,
Within you are boundless futures	Freedom to love,
If you are given freedom;	Freedom to be loved.

**Imant Raminsh** was born in Latvia but came to Canada as a young child. He has lived in Vernon, BC for many years and been an important part of the music scene in the Interior as an educator, conductor, composer and violinist. His compositions have been performed by the world's best known ensembles in stellar halls on six continents. Today we hear two of his pieces. Song ("And I think over again") is based on an old Inuit poem translated by anthropologist Knud Rasmussen wherein life's gift of a new day is recognized as paramount.

Sunset: A BC Cowboy's Lament, an evocative arrangement of the folksong collected by Philip J. Thomas, a pioneer art teacher and BC's premier folk music historian. Latvia, Inuit, Greenland/Danish, arctic, prairies, hunters, cowboys – a grand mix that explains Canada!

**R. Murray Schafer** is one of Canada's most internationally renowned composers. He is very cutting edge in developing creates landscapes of sound. Indeed, one of his most noteworthy projects was the study of the relationship between people and their environmental sounds and was entitled the World Soundscape Project. Miniwanka is an imitative piece describing the various states of water and its transformation from rain to streams to quiet lakes to broad rivers and to the ocean. The text consists of words for these various water forms in many different indigenous languages.

**Eric Wettstein** is Laudate Singers' current composer-in-residence and we are delighted to premiere The Wife. Wettstein says: "The poetry, written by Marjorie Pickthall, is taken from the 1922 publication The Wood Carver's Wife. I chose the work of Pickthall because I believe she is an under-represented Canadian icon who writes with perfect phrasing and a truly original voice, distinct from any of her predecessors. The sombre poetry pits passions against despairs, and subtle cruelties against exaltations. In facing death, we are confronted with a multitude of emotions, but in the end, we all find peace. As Pickthall writes – "life and death are one".

**Floating with Flowing Waters is by Mark Armanini**, a Vancouver native educated at UBC, composition teacher at Capilano University, active in many community and professional music organizations in Vancouver. His particular interest is in intercultural music sparked by the increasingly multicultural nature of Vancouver after EXPO 86. His compositions often use non-western instruments and have a distinctly Asian quality to them. He is artistic director of the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra with whom Laudate Singers has a long history including a recent CD collaboration. Floating with Flowing Waters encompasses delicate, intimate and intense qualities.

**Ron Smail** is a Vancouver vocal arranger, singer and teacher. The Log Driver's Waltz was written by Wade Hemsworth, a design draftsman for the Canadian National Railway by day and a consummate folk song writer by night. He wrote fewer than 20 songs in his life but each was a jewel, bringing some part of Canadiana to life. The Log Driver's Waltz sung by Kate and Anna McGarrigle was made into a highly popular National Film Board animation still enjoyed today. Smail's choral arrangement is true to the original's sense of dance and fun.

**Stephen Chatman** was born in Minnesota but has become one of Canada's most loved and influential composers. He has been Professor of Composition at UBC since 1976 – imagine how many composers he has nurtured! He has written some wonderful songs about Canada, reflecting its culture and landscape. One of Laudate's most-performed composers, we're delighted to conclude our program today with three of his songs.

## THE MUSICIANS



### LAUDATE SINGERS

Laudate means praise, and for **Laudate Singers**, every concert is a joyful celebration. Now celebrating its 21st season, current artistic director Lars Kaario founded Laudate Singers in 1995. This chamber choir continues to skillfully and passionately present repertoire that spans centuries, cultures and genres. The choir also strives to foster the development of professional musicians and enrich the cultural fabric of our community.

Laudate Singers is a committed champion of Canadian choral music, commissioning and performing new Canadian works every season in addition to mentoring and nurturing young composers through a composer-in-residence programme.

Laudate Singers has been pleased to undertake stimulating and innovative partnerships with high caliber local performers and ensembles such as the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra, the North Shore Celtic Ensemble, Tangissimo, Denis Bédard, Ariel Barnes, Heidi Krutzen and period baroque instrumentalists. The choir was honoured to represent North Vancouver at the Chiba (Japan) Cultural Festival in 2009.

The choir has recorded seven CDs, with the latest release, *Mystics & Lovers*, being a collaboration with Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra featuring two major works Moshe Denburg and Farshid Samandari.



**LARS KAARIO** (conductor) is founder and director Laudate Singers. He has built an impressive reputation as a conductor, singer and educator in his native Vancouver. Lars has forged valuable and lasting relationships with leading musicians and organizations in BC's arts scene. He is keenly interested in commissioning

and performing Canadian music. As Director of Choral Studies in the Music Diploma Program at Capilano University where he directs Capilano University Singers and Capilano University Festival Chorus, Lars is able to support and mentor young singers, instrumentalists and composers. He shares his joy and skill of conducting as head instructor in the University's Conducting Certificate Program. Lars has appeared as conductor with such notable local ensembles as the Pacific Baroque Orchestra, Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra, Theatre Under the Stars and others. He has also appeared as soloist in Bach's B Minor Mass, Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Requiem and more with many of BC's major choirs and orchestras.



**ERIC WETTSTEIN** (composer-in-residence) is a composer, instrumentalist and educator living in Vancouver, BC. He completed his Bachelors in Composition from Capilano University's renowned jazz studies program in 2013, studying composition with Bradshaw Pack, Bill Coon, and Dr. Jared Burrows. In 2014, he

received a grant from the BC Arts Council to study with John Korsrud, which led to a commission for the Hard Rubber Orchestra in 2015. He is currently completing his Bachelor of Education at UBC. Eric writes music for choir, classical and jazz ensembles and arranges and produces popular/folk music in addition to his solo works. He is also very passionate about film and video games, as his music is largely inspired from these practices as well.

## DONORS MUCH APPRECIATED

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the City and District of North Vancouver through the grants programs of North Vancouver Recreation & Culture, the District of West Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia, and Canada Council for the Arts. These are competitive grants and we feel honoured in receiving them.

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

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SINFONIA

2016  
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concert season



This concert will celebrate Earth Day, starting with Michael Conway Baker's "Planet for the Taking". Pro Arte dancers will perform with the Sinfonia on Chopin's "Les Sylphides". The concert will also include Beethoven's "Pastoral Symphony".

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**Saturday, April 22, 2017 (7:30pm)**

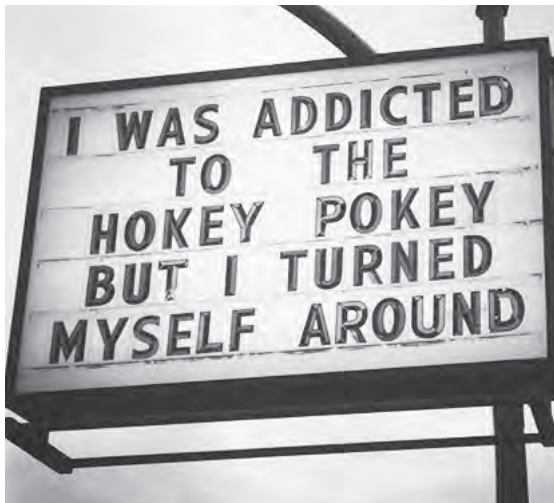
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