

# LAUDATE SINGERS

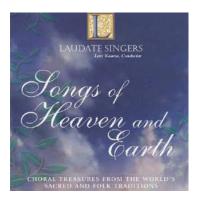
PERFORM AN A CAPPELLA PROGRAM OF CHORAL GEMS & A NEW COMMISSION FROM OUR COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

# FROM DISIANI LANDS

8PM SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023
HIGHLANDS UNITED CHURCH
3255 EDGEMONT BLVD, NORTH VANCOUVER

Our livestream viewers will enjoy pre-concert and intermission music from Laudate Singers' CD recording Songs of Heaven and Earth. This is an "oldie but a goodie" made in 1999 and is one of seven recordings Laudate made in the past which can be purchased for your enjoyment at our concerts or from our website www.laudatesingers.com

1	C1 V:4-	4 1 1	M1 M4: T:44-1
	Con el Vito	Andalucia	Manuel Massotti Littel
	Mayila (Sinkiang Hasake Folksong)	China	arr. Chen Yi
3	Täällä Pohjantähden alla	Finland	arr. Juha Vintturi
4	Wis/lo moja, Wis/lo szara	Poland	arr. Henryk Górecki
5	Oy Polná, Polná Koróbushka	Russia	arr. Constantine Shvedoff
6	Vuka, Vuka, Debora!	South Africa	arr. John Knox Bokwe
7	Pseudo-Yoik, composed in the style of	f a <i>Lappland</i> chant	Jaakko Mäntyjärvi
8	Jubilate Deo for two choirs	Italy	Giovanni Gabrieli
9	A Hymn to the Mother of God	England	John Tavener
10	Pater Noster	Argentina	Alberto Grau
	Salish Song	British Columbia	arr. Derek Healey
12	À la volette	Quebec	Stephen Chatman
13	Lukey's Boat	Nova Scotia	Chatman
14	Bye, Bye, Baby (Doukhobor Lullaby)	British Columbia	arr. Imant Raminsh
15	Ave Verum Corpus	British Columbia	Ian Cox
16	Laudate Pueri	British Columbia	Tyler Peterson
17	O Vos Omnes	British Columbia	Peterson
18	Cantate Domino	British Columbia	Peterson
19	Prayer of St. Francis	Ontario	Barrie Cabena
20	When Heard in Harmonies	British Columbia	Mark Armanini
21	God the Master of This Scene	Ontario	Harry Somers





# **Artistic & Administrative Staff**

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Laura Kaario, Laudate Assistant Conductor Marco Del Rio, Paragon Assistant Conductor

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You make all the difference!

# **From Distant Lands**

Vision ChantCanadaAndrew BalfourUbi caritasNorway/USAOla GjeiloEarth SongUSAFrank Ticheli

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Verano Porteño Argentina Astor Piazzolla, arr. Nestor Zadoff Romance de Román Castillo Mexico trad. ballad, arr. Ramón Noble

\* \* \* \*

Sohran Bushi Japan folk song, arr. Osamu Shimizu

Mō Lì Huā China folk song, arr. Chen Yi Alleluja Philippines Agripino "Nonoy" Diestro

\* \* \* \*

Vuka, Vuka, Debora! South Africa John Knox Bokwe

- Intermission -

Trés Poemas de Leminski Brazil/Canada André Luiz Machado

(commission premiere)

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Ave verum corpus Canada Ian Cox

Remember Canada Stephen Chatman

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Laudate DominumLichtenstein/GermanyJosef RheinbergerBeati Quorum ViaEnglandCharles StanfordSiúil a RúinIrelandtrad., arr. Michael McGlynn

Solos: Alanah & Laura

Yver, vous n'estes qu'un vilain France Claude Debussy

Quartet: Veronica, Lou, Mark, Andrew

\* \* \* \*

Kung LiljeconvaljeSwedenDavid WikanderThere Will Come Soft RainsLatviaĒriks EšenvaldsYou Can't Stop Me!FinlandMia Makaroff

#### LAUDATE SINGERS

Lars Kaario, Conductor Laura Kaario, Assistant Conductor

Soprano: Alanah Ellsworth, Laura Kaario, Amy Pun, Veronica Roenitz, Linda Webster Alto: Caroline Colijn, Lou Latil, Maureen Nicholson

Tenor: Mark De Silva, Nathan Kaleta, André Luiz Machado Bass: Nick Ainsworth, Barry Honda, Preston Lee, Andrew Wilson

# NOTES AND TRANSLATIONS

#### **Vision Chant**

Andrew Balfour

Prominent Winnipeg composer Andrew Balfour, of Cree descent, has written many choral, instrumental and orchestral works. Vision Chant is based on an Indigenous chant style and is striking for both its stillness and its intensity. It includes the Ojibway word "babamadizwin", meaning "journey". The journey that is evoked by the piece begins and ends with a soprano melody, at first divided and then, symbolically perhaps, unified. What takes place in between these musical bookends is the vision itself. The vision described in the title and painted in the music is somewhat fearsome at its climax. For comfort, Grandmother (Nokomis) and Grandfather (Mishomis) are called upon. By the conclusion, there is resolution, and perhaps of awakening to a sunrise.

Hey-hyah, Hey-hyah Babamadizwin Windigo Mishomis, Nokomis, Windigo Hey-hyah, Hey hyah.



Andrew Balfour Photo: Karine Beaudette

#### **Ubi Caritas**

Ola Gjeilo

Now living in the United States but proudly Norwegian, this is one of Gjeilo's most popular choral pieces. It draws inspiration from the Gregorian chant tradition. In Latin, the translation follows.

Where charity and love are, God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us revere and love the living God.
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.
Amen.



Ola Gjeilo

# **Earth Song**

Frank Ticheli

"I just can't even begin to describe how these words affected me. It's like all of my feelings, hopes, doubts, everything was just placed in this song. And the lines 'But music and singing have been my refuge, and music and singing shall be my light' just explains my...outlook on life I suppose, but more like how I live life. Words have such an ability to touch people and when put to music their influence is amazing." This quote from a 20-year-old internet blogger known as Aeolian Veneration beautifully describes this piece and the power music can possess. Laudate often sings this powerful piece at the North Vancouver Remembrance Day ceremony. Frank Ticheli is an American composer and is a professor at the University of Southern California.

Sing, Be, Live, See...

This dark stormy hour, The wind, it stirs. The scorched earth cries out in vain:

O war and power, You blind and blur. The torn heart Cries out in pain. But music and singing Have been my refuge, And music and singing Shall be my light.

A light of song Shining strong: Alleluia! Through darkness, pain and strife, I'll Sing, Be, Live, See...

Peace.

#### Verano Porteño

Astor Piazzolla, arr. Nestor Zadoff

Astor Piazzolla was an Argentinian tango composer, bandoneon player, and arranger. His works revolutionized the traditional tango into a new style termed nuevo tango, incorporating elements from jazz and classical music. Laudate has enjoyed several of Piazzolla's passionate pieces over the years, reimagined as choral pieces by fellow Argentinian composers such as Nestor Zadoff, both in concert and on its Voice of the Tango CD.



Astor Piazzolla

#### Romance de Román Castillo

trad. Mexican Ballad, arr. Ramón Noble

This song likely has some historical political or social meaning but is appreciated by us for its ability to convey sadness. Ramón Noble was primarily interested in organ music but we're thankful that he also arranged this traditional piece for choir. The great Mexican singer Óscar Chávez who died at beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, loved to sing this piece, further suggesting that it had social relevance for he was strongly committed to social causes.

Where are you going Roman Castillo? Poor man!
Stop annoying the women of this place. Your horse is crippled,
Your sword is already broken;
Your valor is peculiar
And no one is interested
In your affection.

#### Sohran Bushi

arr. Osamu Shimizu

Sohran Bushi is one of the most famous traditional songs and dance in Japan. Our bass Barry Honda has great memories of it: "I heard Sohran all the time as a kid – all the women in my family (3 generations) did Japanese dancing (Odori) to this song, and everyone would join in the dance at big Japanese community summer picnics back in the 60s." It is a sea shanty that is said to have been first sung by the fishermen of Hokkaido. The fishermen are singing this work song hoping to have a bountiful catch of herring and are also longing to find a good wife. The words "sohran" and "dokkoisho" are both words used in the past to encourage fishermen in their work. The arranger, Osamu Shimizu, was a very active composer for both instruments and voice including traditional Japanese and western instruments.

I asked the flying seagulls if the tide is best to fish;
"We're leaving now," they answered, "Ask the breaker, if you wish."
O, if you wish to marry, pick a girl on the fishing ground,
I'm sure she's sweet and tender, even if she is all brown'd.

Tomorrow I'll embark for catching herring from the sea.

Tomorrow night the hard deck is the pillow then for me. (Translation: C.I. Migita)

# Mō Lì Huā

arr. Chen Yi

Chen Yi collected folk songs from many areas of her homeland of China. She says "they melted into my blood and became my natural music language." She has spent much of her life studying and composing in the USA, including writing A Set of Chinese Folk Songs for the famous Chanticleer vocal ensemble to use in their work with schools. Mō Lì Huā is a folk song from Jiangsu, a coastal province north of Shanghai originally from the Qing Dynasty. It is such a popular song that an elaborate production of it was included in the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Beijing Olympics with singers Song Zuying and Celine Dion!

Jasmine flower, such a beautiful flower, her sweet scent covers all others in the garden.

I want to pluck her for myself, but I'm afraid of the garden's keeper.

Jasmine flower, such a beautiful flower, she is as white as snow when she is blooming.

I want to pluck her for myself, but I'm afraid of gossips around.

Jasmine flower, such a beautiful flower, her looks can eclipse all others in the garden.

I want to pluck her for myself, but I'm afraid that she won't bud next year.



#### Alleluja

Agripino "Nonoy" Diestro

Filipino composer Agripino Diestro was also well known as a conductor and educator. Alleluja was voted one of the favourite pieces of 2001 by Musica International. The work is built solely on the word Alleluja. It starts gently with undulating chords of simple yet rich harmony and develops rhythmic excitement as it progresses and ends with a powerful climax. Alleluja!



Agripino Diestro

# Vuka, Vuka, Debora!

John Knox Bokwe

South Africa's musical heritage is choral rather than instrumental. The African/mission tradition includes dozens of composers of which John Knox Bokwe is perhaps the best known. A journalist and Presbyterian minister as well as a composer, Bokwe wrote this piece in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in the Xhosa language. The text is based on the triumphant Song of Deborah and Barak from Judges 5:12 and is appropriately full of optimism and joy.



John Knox Bokwe

Awake, awake, Debora
Sing a song
Barak, son of Abinoam
Do not capture hostages
Move downwards as a people
You strong and big men
Jehovah here I am among the brave ones
Curse Meroz
Jehovah's angel says so
Curse, curse its inhabitants

Because they did not come to help
To help the army of Jehovah
They did not help it among the brave ones
They did help the army of Jehovah
Awake, awake, Debora
Sing a song
Barak, son of Abinoam
Stand up and take your own hostages

#### Trés Poemas de Leminski

André Luiz Machado

André has written yet another fascinating piece for us, this time honouring the important Brazilian poet Paulo Leminski who was noted for his avant-garde work, experimental novel and poetry inspired in concrete poetry as well as contributing greatly to Brazilian popular music. As a teenager he was sent to Mosteiro de São Bento (Monstery of Saint Benedict) in order to become a monk. While he found he was not suited to that disciplined lifestyle, his studies there exposed him to theology, philosophy, classical literature and languages which he built upon throughout his life even while drawn to modern pop culture such as punk culture.



Paulo Leminski

The first poem of André's piece is in honour of the Saint Benedict order – you hear the first line, in Latin, repeated over and over perhaps like a prayer repetition. The percussive section with nonsense words has a

distinct Afro-Brazilian rhythmic pattern, while a melody emerging from the soprano reinforces a multicultural and enigmatic aspect of this piece, reminding us that is "out here the order that goes in", as the poem says. The second section works as a symbolic exhortation not to close our mind and "body like someone closing a book", which leads to a third section that illustrates a calm and beautiful mind when it is realized that "we are one another, it is within us", bringing together tonalities and atonal perspectives in a harmonious space.

I.
In honor of the order of the blessed saint

to the order of saint benedict the order that knows that the fire is slow and it is out here the order that goes in

the order knows that everything is holy the hour the colour the water the song the incense the silence and inside the smallest it opens deep the flower of the vastest space II.
We close the body
like someone closing a book
for already knowing it by heart.
Closing the body
like someone closing a book
in unknown language
and unknowing the body
we unknow everything.

III.
upon the empty table
I open the clean tablecloth
the calm mind
most beautiful word
here it ends
the wildest night
the one that didn't want
to turn into clear day
we are one another
a god, ultimately,
it is within us

(Paulo Leminski, translation: André Luiz Machado)

#### Ave verum corpus

Ian Cox

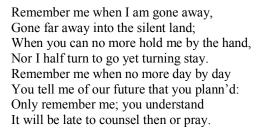
This is a beautifully written, thoughtful and reflective piece Laudate has kept in its repertoire for many years, often using it as part of the North Vancouver Remembrance Day observance ceremonies. The Okanagan-born composer used dissonance very effectively to express the depth and simplicity of this traditional text.

Hail true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, Who has truly suffered, Was sacrificed on the cross for mortals, Whose side was pierced, whence flowed water and blood: Be for us a foretaste of heaven during our final examining

#### Remember

Stephen Chatman

Remember is another piece particularly suited to our Remembrance Day program. Written by one of Canada's most prominent composers, Stephen Chatman has taught composition at UBC since 1976. He is a master at creating colour and expression in his choral music. The lyrics are a poem by Christina Rossetti.



Yet if you should forget me for a while And afterwards remember, do not grieve: For if the darkness and corruption leave

A vestige of the thoughts that once I had, Better by far you should forget and smile Than that you should remember and be sad.



Stephen Chatman

# **Laudate Dominum**

Josef Rheinberger

Born in Liechtenstein, Rheinberger spent most of his working life in Bavaria. He was responsible for music in the royal chapel as court conductor, an influential teacher, organist and a prolific composer in many genres. This 6-part motet is based on Psalm 134 and was meant for use during Lent. It is uplifting and jubilant!

Praise ye the Lord, for He is good: sing ye to His Name, for He is sweet: whatsoever He pleased, He hath done in heaven and in earth.



Josef Rheinberger

#### Beati Quorum Via

Charles Stanford

Sir Charles Villiers Stanford was born in Ireland but it is his great role in the renaissance of English music in the late 19th century for which he is most revered. Well educated, first at Cambridge and then in Germany and France, he became an influential music professor both at Cambridge and the Royal College of Music with students including Ralph Vaughan Williams and Gustav Holst. He loved contemporary music and combined that with a love of older choral music. His part songs and Anglican service music, such as this lovely Beati Quorum Via, became hugely popular throughout England and it is these that endured even after Elgar and his own students' music became more prominent.

Psalm 119:1 – Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD.

#### Siúil a Rúin

trad., arr. Michael McGlynn

Michael McGlynn arranged this traditional Irish song that has a mix of English and Irish languages. It is sung from the point of view of a woman lamenting a lover who has embarked on a military career. McGlynn has been a favourite composer of ours for a long time. He is founder and director of the Irish ensemble Anúna, has written prolifically and with great success in this genre of music based on Irish Celtic traditions. He masterfully blends the ancient qualities of the piece with a contemporary musical language.

I wish I were on yonder hill 'Tis there I'd sit and cry my fill And every tear would turn a mill

I wish I sat on my true love's knee Many a fond story he told to me He told me things that ne'er shall be Chorus:
Come, come, come, oh love
Quickly come to me, softly move
Come to the door and away we'll flee

His hair was black, his eye was blue His arm was strong, his word was true I wish in my heart I was with you

I'll dye my petticoat, I'll dye it red And 'round the world I'll beg my bread 'Til I find my love alive or dead

# Yver, vous n'estes qu'un vilain

Claude Debussy

Nineteenth century French composer Claude Debussy brought a new musical language to the world. Many have referred to him as the first Impressionist composer though Debussy himself despised that term. He wrote in many genres though unfortunately very little for unaccompanied choir. Yver, vous n'estes qu'un vilain is the third song from his Trois Chansons de Charles d'Orléans written in 1909. Debussy had enjoyed the medieval d'Orléans' poetry from an early age. He brings it to life in a declamatory and imitative style, lashing out at winter with rugged and agitated vocal lines.

Winter, you're nothing but a villain! Summer is pleasant and kind, as we see from May and April which accompany it evening and morning. Summer clothes the fields, woods, and flowers with its livery of green and many other colours, by nature's command.
But you, Winter, are too full
of snow, wind, rain, and sleet.
You should be banished!
Without exaggerating, I speak plainly—
Winter, you're nothing but a villain!

# Kung Liljeconvalje

David Wikander

Kari Turunen, now Vancouver Chamber Choir's director, introduced this piece to us in 2006 when he visited from Finland as our guest conductor. He wrote about it: David Wikander (1884-1955), Swedish organist and composer, is best remembered for his hymns and a few choral pieces, which have become a central part of the Swedish romantic choral literature. Kung Liljekonvalje (1910) was originally written for male chorus to the poem by Gustaf Fröding. This poem is typical of Fröding in its musical qualities and folk-song like simplicity. Wikander's setting of the poem is lyrical and subtle; the soft light of an evening in early summer is captured beautifully.

The lily of the valley, king of the grove Is white as snow.

Now the young king is mourning Princess Lily of the valley.

King Lily of the valley bows his Sorrowful head so heavily, tenderly, His silver helmet gleams palely In the summer dusk.

Round the cobwebs of the bier, From the censers with powder of flowers Floats the fragrance of incense, The whole forest is full of perfume. From the birch's waving crown From the wind's swaying green home Mournful melodies sound, and all the Forest is full of whispers.

Through the dell a message whispers Of kingly sorrow among murmuring leaves, In the forest's wide realm, From the capital of the Lilies of the valley.

#### There Will Come Soft Rains

Ēriks Ešenvalds

Born in 1977 in Latvia, Ešenvalds is one of the most sought-after composers today with a busy commission schedule and performances of his music heard on every continent. "For me, harmony is most important – how it flows and becomes a new harmony." There Will Come Soft Rains is a setting of American poet Sara Teasdale's (1884-1933) iconic piece describing the reaction of nature to the end of humanity, brought about by catastrophic war. Written in 1918, the poem was Teasdale's response to the horrors of the First World War. Ešenvalds has set many of Teasdale's poems to music. "I am drawn to the beauty and poignant simplicity of her poetry.... On my musical canvas was an impression of a world peaceful and full of life.... I agreed to Sara's idea about the importance to emphasize the endless existence of nature, even if there is war somewhere in the world." (hyperion-records.co.uk)

There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground, And swallows circling with their shimmering sound;

And frogs in the pools singing at night, And wild plum-trees in tremulous white;

Robins will wear their feathery fire Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire;

And not one will know of the war, not one Will care at last when it is done.

Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree If mankind perished utterly;

And Spring herself, when she woke at dawn, Would scarcely know that we were gone.



# You Can't Stop Me!

Mia Makaroff

Finnish composer/educator/conductor Mia Makaroff wrote this lively, virtuosic and fun song for the wonderful a cappella ensemble Rajaton. It celebrates being yourself and succeeding.

When that happened to me at first I could not see, but then I decided not to close my eyes! And then I found a way, an impossible way so you said! But it made me fly right away.

Now I'm just like a token, spinning in a trance But surprise! I don't fall and I don't choose either side! I keep rolling around in a dance I just have found The laws of nature make exceptions somehow?

You can't really stop me now!

I keep balancing on but I'm good because I'm strong, I turn when I see you reaching for me And it still makes me laugh when you thought you had had all of me - but you see: I keep changing on.

You can't really stop me now!



Mia Makaroff

# THANK YOU

Laudate Singers acknowledge that we live and work on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples including the Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. We are grateful for their care of this land they graciously share with us. We also thank:

- The staff at Highlands United Church and North Shore Unitarian Church
- Erin Nicholson, graphic designer
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- Front-of-house volunteers Valerie Weeks, Gabrielle Komorowska, Darcy Gerhardt, Catherine Crouch, Denise Gilbert and Janice Moger
- North Shore News, promotion
- Contact Printing, printing service

# **LAUDATE SINGERS**

Laudate means praise, and for Laudate Singers, every concert is a joyful celebration. Now celebrating its 28th 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. Over the years, almost 70 pieces have been added to Canadian choral arts repertoire. This season, we are



pleased to have an accomplished film, television, games and concert composer who will be learning the art of choral writing as our composer-in-residence. André Luiz Machado will write two pieces for us.

New this season, Laudate Singers Society has appointed two young conductors to assist with Laudate Singers and its sister choir, Paragon Singers. Both conductors are gaining valuable experience in rehearsal and on the podium. Laura Kaario is working with Laudate Singers and Marco Del Rio with Paragon Singers.

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 many fine period baroque instrumentalists. The choir was honoured to represent North Vancouver at a Chiba (Japan) Cultural Festival.

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



LARS KAARIO, Director, is founder and artistic director of 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. Mr. Kaario retired in 2021 after a 35-year career at Capilano University where he was Director of Choral Studies in the Diploma of Music Program, leading Capilano University Singers and Capilano University Festival Chorus. He was also the 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.



LAURA KAARIO, Assistant Conductor, Laudate Singers. Having grown up surrounded by choral music, she finds it a highly spiritual and deeply human experience to sing and connect with others. Laura has sung with Laudate for five years and is enjoying the added role of assistant conductor this year. Laura holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education (2018) from University of Victoria, and a Conducting Certificate (2015) and Music Diploma (2015) from Capilano University. She is a soprano and pianist, and has taught piano, voice, and preschool music classes.



ANDRÉ LUIZ MACHADO, Composer-in-Residence, is a classical singer and an award-winning composer of music for film, games and the concert hall. He has been working internationally within film and visual media, writing music for projects in the UK, USA, Canada and award-winning Brazilian films. In 2018 he won Best Score at the Los Angeles Film Awards and was also nominated for the Crystal Pine Award at the International Sound & Film Music Festival, in Croatia. André Luiz Machado has a master's degree in Composition of Music for Film and Television at the University of Bristol (UK), and a bachelor's degree in Singing and Composition at the Federal University of Goiás (Brazil). He immigrated to Canada in 2020, and decided to make Vancouver his new home. Please read more about his work on his website https://www.andreluizmachado.com/

# **DONORS ARE APPRECIATED!**

Laudate Singers, like other arts groups, must rely on fundraising and donations to meet expenses. We salute those whose contributions to Laudate Singers Society within the past year allow us to present choral concerts of the highest calibre to our community. Enjoy the music!

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Laudate Singers gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the City of North Vancouver and the District of North Vancouver through the Arts & Culture Grants Program of the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission, the District of West Vancouver through their community grant programs, the Province of BC, and the Canada Council for the Arts. We are appreciative of our sponsor Contact Printing and to our exclusive media sponsor, North Shore News.

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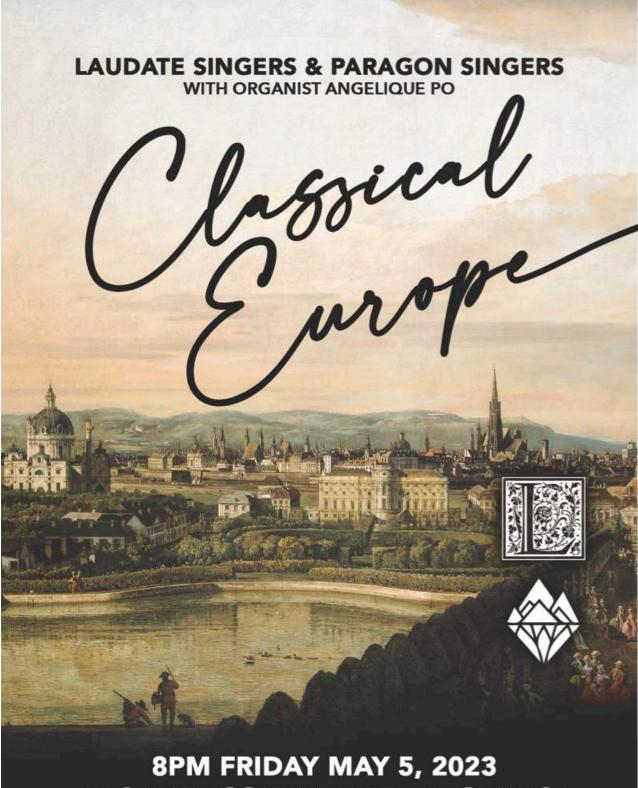












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