



WINNIPEG
PHILHARMONIC
CHOIR

The Voice of Inspiration



The Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir 2012-13 season: Celebrating 90 years of choral excellence!

The Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir, Western Canada's longest-established adult choral group, has a well-earned reputation for excellence. A choral trademark for the City of Winnipeg, the Phil's repertoire covers a broad range of music including oratorios, masses, songs, and choral symphonies with a focus on major choral works with orchestral accompaniment. Priding itself on premiering original music, the Phil has commissioned works by composers from both Manitoba and across Canada. The choir has also captivated audiences in Toronto,

Vancouver and New York's storied Carnegie Hall.

Major choral works, performed with either the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (WSO) or the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra (MCO) include: Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*; Britten's *War Requiem*; Bach's *Mass in B Minor*; Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Requiem*; Sir Edward Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*; Mozart's *Mass in C minor*; Fauré's *Requiem*; Verdi's *Stabat Mater* and his *Requiem*; Bach's *Cantata No. 4 (Christ lag in Todesbanden)* and, most recently, Mahler's *Symphony No 2*. In May 2013, the Phil will join the WSO

for its 2012-13 season to perform Beethoven's 9th *Symphony*.

Each season, under the direction of Maestro Yuri Klaz, the Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir provides music lovers of all ages a subscription series of three Sunday afternoon concerts that bring to life some of the world's finest choral works. In celebrating its 90th Anniversary, the Phil will perform works that are dramatic, profoundly moving and always entertainingly full of heart.

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About our Artistic Director

Born in Petrozavodsk, Russia, Yuri Klaz graduated from his hometown's music college and conservatory before finishing his Master's degree in conducting at the St. Petersburg State Conservatory. In 1982, he was appointed an associate professor of choral and orchestral conducting at the Petrozavodsk Conservatory and, in 1987, became the artistic director and conductor of the Chamber Choir of the Petrozavodsk's Karelian Art Centre. Under his guidance, the choir earned numerous awards performing in concert tours and music festivals in Russia, Germany, Finland, Estonia, Ireland and Norway.

In 1995, by decree of President Boris Yeltsin, Mr. Klaz was awarded the prestigious title, "Honoured Artist of Russia", investing him with a silver medal for exceptional success in the development of art in Russia.

In 2000, the Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir recruited Yuri Klaz as its artistic director and conductor. He quickly became a leader in

Winnipeg's choral community and in 2003 was appointed artistic director and conductor of the Winnipeg Singers. Mr. Klaz also directs the First Mennonite Church Choir and the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue Choir.

In 2005, Mr. Klaz made a critically-acclaimed debut as a conductor with the WSO in a choral series including Fauré's *Requiem*, Verdi's *Stabat Mater* and J.S. Bach's *Cantata No. 4*. In 2006, Mr. Klaz made his first appearance with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra conducting Mozart's *Great Mass in C minor* with the Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir and the Winnipeg Singers. He has also led the Winnipeg Singers several times in the WSO's New Music Festival.

Mr. Klaz has conducted around the world, including performances in the United States, Japan, Taiwan, Germany and Russia. In June 2010, Yuri Klaz was honored with the Winnipeg Arts Council's "Making a Mark" award in recognition of his contribution to choral music performance.

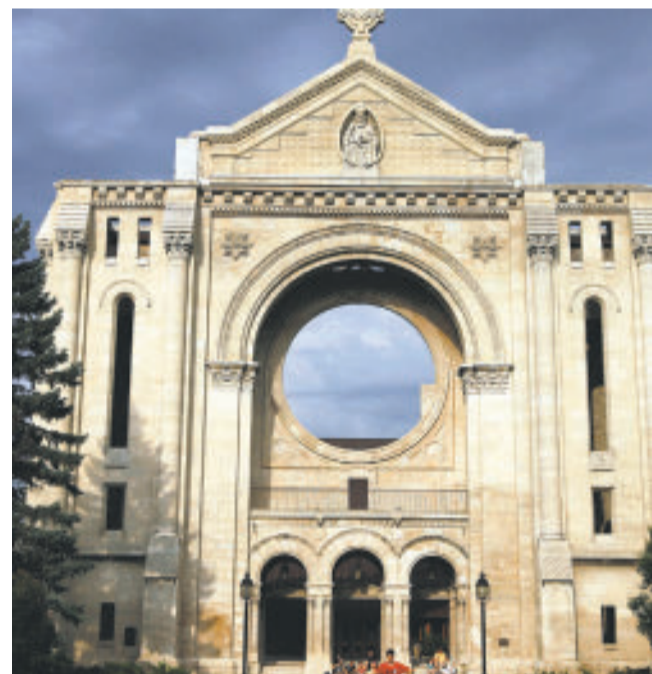


On Sunday, October 21 the Phil presents the first concert of its 90th season at Westminster United Church.

The **Royal Canadian Air Force Band** joins the Phil to perform the monumental **Bruckner Mass No. 2 in E Minor**. Also featured will be the world premiere of ***If Thou Wilt, Remember*** by acclaimed Canadian composer Stephen Chatman. The Phil commissioned this work to celebrate the Choir's 90th season.



On Sunday, December 16, again at Westminster Church, the Phil continues its tradition of celebrating ***Holiday Memories*** of well-known Winnipeggers, matching their favourite music to their recollections. Join internationally-acclaimed Winnipeg soprano **Tracy Dahl** (above), CBC Radio host **Andrea Ratuski**, Winnipeg Harvest's **David Northcott**, the RWB and Shaw TV's **Tracy Koga** and the Phil's president **Barry McArton**, along with **Henry G. Izatt School Choir** and **Don Menzies** on the organ. You won't want to miss the traditional sing-along of familiar holiday favorites! Ho-ho-hold on to your toque and join in the fun!



On Sunday, February 24, the Phil closes its 90th Anniversary season with a Gala Performance of Mendelssohn's epic oratorio ***Elijah***. Performing with the **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra**, the choir will be joined by stellar soloists **Tracy Dahl** (soprano), **Kirsten Schellenberg** (mezzo-soprano), **Kurt Lehman** (tenor) and, as Elijah, **Greg Dahl** (bass). The magnificent and historic St. Boniface Cathedral will provide the setting for a once-in-a-lifetime performance of this splendid work.

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What's it like to sing with the Phil?

Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir members may vary in age and musical background, but all are connected by their love of great choral music. Some members have been with the choir since 1970, some just joined this September and there's one whose grandfather performed at the very first concert back in 1922 – her family is now looking at five generations of Phil choristers!

Recently we sat down with **Bob Gladding, Janine Guinn, Keith Black, Pearl Stelmack, Rick MacLowick** and **Chris Wallace** to learn more about their experiences singing with the Phil.

How long have you sung with the Phil?

Bob: This is my 26th season.

Janine: Two weeks! I just joined this fall.

Keith: I've been around for 36 years.

Pearl: This is my 36th year and I have never missed singing a concert.

Rick: More than 38 years. I arrived in Winnipeg in January 1974 and joined the Phil within a couple of months. My first concert was Beethoven's *9th* on May 12, 1974.

Chris: I've been a member of The Phil since 2009 after moving from Toronto. The Phil was at the top of my 'recommended' list of choirs to join based on artistic merit, community involvement, and contribution to the performing arts.

Pearl, we understand you have a special connection that goes all the way back to the choir's beginnings. Tell us about it.

Pearl: Over the choir's 90 years there has always been a member of my family singing in the Phil. My grandfather sang in the first performance of the choir in 1922. My mother and her brother joined in the 1940s. Mother sang until sometime in the '70s and I joined in 1976. My son Andrew also sang with the Phil for several years until he moved to Toronto. And now my granddaughter is studying voice and she hopes to one day sing with the choir. That would make it five generations!

What are your musical backgrounds?

Bob: When I joined the Phil, my only choral

experience was with church choirs. I've since had a couple of years' lessons with (WPC Artistic Director) Yuri Klaz.

Janine: One year of singing lessons when I was a pre-teen; otherwise I'm self-taught. I grew up singing with church choir, travelled in *Up With People* (a Broadway-style musical revue) for one year, and sang vocals for an acoustic band for two years.

Keith: I started singing at age 6 in the Winnipeg Boys Choir, and have sung in choirs ever since. I

Choir. In addition to the Phil, I currently sing with the Mennonite Festival Choir. My formal musical training began with piano lessons, followed by voice studies at the (University of Manitoba) and studying with Dorothy Lawson.

Chris: I've been fortunate to be a member of many prestigious choirs and vocal institutions including the Tampa Bay Master Chorale, Spanish Lyric Theatre, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir & Singers, numerous church choirs, choral organizations, and under contract with the Walt Disney Company.

What do you like best about singing with the Phil?

Bob: As an immigrant to the Prairies, the Phil gave me an instant Winnipeg contact base and has remained a source of continuing support. It's terrific to make a joyful noise with a talented group of singers.

Janine: So far, people have been very friendly, approachable and helpful...so I know I came to the right place!

Keith: Singing with the Phil has given me the opportunity to sing virtually every well-known choral work ever written, and many rarely sung ones. I love the

variety of music – from classic to contemporary – and the friends I've made, but most of all I love the simple joy of singing in an ensemble and making music with other choristers.

Pearl: I enjoy all aspects of the Phil. I have made many good friends over the years and those friendships have continued even though the people may no longer be in the choir. It's been a wonderful opportunity to sing many different types of music.

Rick: Singing with the Phil has given me the opportunity to participate in many wonderful musical events and to be exposed to a wide range of musical styles. It's my musical family with several of its members becoming good friends over the many years.

Chris: Music is the food that feeds the soul, so they say. For me, performing with the Phil offers a unique opportunity in Manitoba to express my artistic voice, share and be part of numerous choral masterworks, and give back to the community.



Phil choristers (L-R) Bob Gladding, Pearl Stelmack, Keith Black, Chris Wallace, Janine Guinn and Rick MacLowick take a break during rehearsal at Kelvin High School

was in grade 12 when I first had an opportunity to sing in an "adult" choir – Beethoven's *9th* with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. It was a major thrill – and we get to perform it again with the WSO in May 2013.

Rick: I started singing in choirs in high school when I was chosen to represent the City of Edmonton in the Centennial Singers in 1966-67. I was in the U of Alberta Male Chorus and Concert Choir. After graduation in 1971, I moved to Ottawa where I sang with the Ottawa Choral Society and the Recreation Assoc. Theatrical Society. I joined the Phil shortly after moving to Winnipeg. I'm a member of the Manitoba Opera Chorus and the Augustine United Church choir.

Pearl: The first choir I ever sang with was my church Sunday school. I went on to sing in the church junior choir, and senior choir – where I still sing today – and I was the church soloist for many years. I also sang in choirs throughout school, Winnipeg Girls Choir, and the WSO Pops



Want to sing with the Phil?

Have you ever dreamed of singing with a renowned symphonic orchestra like the WSO, or with internationally-acclaimed artists such as Tracy Dahl? The Phil provides a creative outlet for adult singers from every walk of life.

If this is you, make your dream come true! We are always looking for singers. To arrange your choral interview, call Pearl at 204-222-3549. You'll be glad you did!

What the critics say:

“But the real stars radiated from the choir... Vivacious, accurate, perfectly blended, they brought the spiritual message of this moving work to life with panache. They were raptly attentive to and trusting of Klaz, who guided them through a rigorous 90 minute vocal workout, every detail tidy and intact, every nuance accounted for.”

– Gwenda Nemerofsky, *Winnipeg Free Press*,
on the choir's performance of Mozart's *Mass in C minor*
with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra

**THE WINNIPEG PHILHARMONIC CHOIR
gratefully acknowledges the following support
during the 2012-2013 season:**

All season subscribers will be entered to win a pair of tickets to a Winnipeg Jets game in the 2012-13 season! Draw will take place October 23, 2012. No purchase necessary. Must be 18 years of older. For full contest rules see www.thephil.ca. Limit one entry per person. Contest closes October 22, 2012.

Don't miss a single note!
SUBSCRIBE NOW
and guarantee your seat for:

- **Bruckner *Mass No 2 in E minor***, 3 p.m., Sunday, October 21 at Westminster United Church
- ***Holiday Memories***, featuring **Tracy Dahl**, 3 p.m., Sunday, December 16 at Westminster United Church
- **Mendelssohn's *Elijah***, 3 p.m., Sunday, February 24 at St. Boniface Cathedral

_____ Adult Season Ticket(s) @ \$65 = \$ _____
 _____ Senior Season Ticket(s) @ \$55 = \$ _____
 _____ Under 30 Season Ticket(s) @ \$25 = \$ _____
 _____ Under 6 FREE (please, no babes in arms).

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