



WINNIPEG
PHILHARMONIC
CHOIR

YURI KLAZ ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR



CHRISTMAS
WITH THE PHIL:
TRUMPETS SOUND, ANGELS SING!
SUNDAY
DECEMBER 11
2016

3 PM / 7 PM
WESTMINSTER
UNITED CHURCH

GUEST ARTISTS

The Winnipeg Brass Quintet

Donna Laube, piano

Wes Elias, organ

École Laura Secord School Chamber Choir



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WINNIPEG
PHILHARMONIC
CHOIR

YURI KLAZ
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

2016-2017 SEASON



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* and his *9th Symphony*; 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); Mahler's *Symphony No. 2* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

Each season, under the direction of Maestro Yuri Klaz, the Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir provides music lovers of all ages a subscription series of three concerts that bring to life some of the world's finest choral works. As it enters its 94th season, the Phil continues its tradition of performing works that are dramatic, profoundly moving and always entertainingly full of heart.



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CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS WITH THE PHIL

Christmas with the Phil – Trumpets Sound, Angels Sing! continues the Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir's rich tradition of seasonal offerings that choral music lovers have come to love and look forward to each holiday season. This year, together with the Winnipeg Brass Quintet and École Laura Secord School's Chamber Choir, we are exploring and celebrating the unique musical perspectives of the birth of Jesus Christ by composers old and new. Favorite carols like *Joy to the World* and *Good King Wenceslas* may transport each of us to a time when we first sang in our school's annual Christmas concert. And, with classics by Mendelssohn and Stanford, to newer works destined to become classics by contemporary composers like Pinkham and Rutter, we are reassured that the tradition of Christmas music is alive and well.

Weihnachten ("Christmas Eve") is from Felix Mendelssohn's *Sechs Sprüche zum Kirchenjahr* (Six Anthems for the Liturgical Year) commissioned in 1843 by King Friedrich Wilhelm IV and completed in 1846. They are a musical setting of the king's most loved verses from the New Testament and the Psalms, and were intended for the Church's most important celebrations.

Daniel Pinkham was a prolific and versatile composer in a broad variety of genres from symphonies to art songs. He was a student of Aaron Copland and Nadia Boulanger, and was Music Director Emeritus of historic King's Chapel in Boston from 1958 until 2000. The *Christmas Cantata* (Sinfonia Sacra, 1957), is regarded as his most famous work.

An avowed agnostic, John Rutter is (some might say ironically) one of today's most prolific and popular writers of Christmas music. "For me, first and foremost, Christmas is happy memories of the way it was celebrated when I was a kid. As everyone would probably say, it revolves around the family and gatherings. But it also revolved around my school chapel ... our Christmas carol service was the high point of our singing year. So, I actually developed a love of the whole music of Christmas, along with the message of Christmas, from when I was a kid. With music, your Christmas can always be perfect."

Rutter's *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*, also known as *There's a Star in The East*, is a popular African-American spiritual. It first appeared in print in the 1967 publication *Slave Songs of the United States* under the title *A Christmas Plantation Song*. Its tune most likely originated in plantations on islands off the coast of Georgia and North Carolina. The songs from this region were usually sung as a call and response with plenty of handclapping and foot patting to hold down the rhythm.

Dan Forrest has been described as a "composer of substance" (Columbus Dispatch), whose works have been hailed as "... magnificent, very cleverly constructed sound sculpture" (San Francisco Classical Voice). Forrest believes that whatever abilities he has for creating beauty are gifts from God. His setting of *The First Noel* is a wonder-

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filled, reflective gaze inside the stable in Bethlehem. The anthem takes its time to savor the beauty and meaning of the scene and to communicate directly to the heart of the miracle of the Incarnation.

Our special guests, École Laura Secord School Chamber Choir, take us to intermission with a lovely set of five songs. The original Ukrainian tune for their first song comes from the traditional folk chant called *Shchedryk*, but is perhaps more easily recognized as *Carol of the Bells*. While *Carol of the Snow* gives a taste of the joys of winter, the original song was sung to welcome the spring and tells a tale of a swallow flying into a household to tell them about the bountiful year to come. In *Snow is Falling* all the wonders of winter are told with melody and text that match the whirling, twirling, dancing, prancing snowflakes falling gently to the ground. The sweet little song, *Winter*, was written by the grandfather of a recent graduate of École Laura Secord School. W. H. Anderson composed *Four Seasonal Songs* so that children in Manitoba could sing about their country's own environment. After a freak blizzard caused his concert to be cancelled, Nic Page teamed up with Marilyn Bentov to compose *Je vois la neige qui danse (I See the Snow)*, an impressionistic piece about children dancing in the snow. Keeping with the theme of blizzards (we're no strangers to them!) Jay Althouse's *Blizzard on the Way!* is a favourite of Laura Secord students.

In an interview with Sharon Burch, Andy Beck recalled an audition his mom took him to for The Singing Boys of Pennsylvania choir when he was in the fourth grade. During the audition, he thought, "This is me. This is what I do." He says he didn't pick music; music picked him. Beck is in demand as a guest conductor, choreographer, adjudicator, and clinician for music educators and students throughout the U.S. and beyond. In his arrangement of *I Saw Three Ships* he gives this Christmas classic a cool, lilting jazz treatment.

Irish composer Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) was possibly the most distinguished composer of English church music. Stanford composed his *Magnificat in B flat*, Op 10, in 1879 during his time as organist at Trinity College, Cambridge. It's a pioneering piece of music in which Stanford did something quite new to English choral music: he applied Brahmsian symphonic technique to sacred choral music, thereby giving it a cohesiveness and interest that make it stand out from the run-of-the-mill choral music which was the staple of contemporaneous English church music. (Source: Saturday Chorale; Hyperion Records).

Daniel Kantor is often referred to as a classic renaissance man: author, composer, musician, graphic designer, and business strategist. As a musician and composer, Kantor is primarily known for his popular Christmas choral work *Night of Silence*. He writes: "The setting is placed squarely in the season of Advent, a time of spiritual emptying, darkness, longing and anticipation. The text of the song was inspired in part by the north woods of Wisconsin and the sparkle of freshly fallen snow in the moonlight of a sub-zero winter's night." Another interest of Kantor's may be seen

De Nardi

A black and white photograph of a plate of pasta with a sauce, a glass of wine, and a napkin. The pasta is the central focus, with a glass of wine in the upper right and a napkin in the lower right. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

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occasionally in the New York Times: he is one of about 100 crossword puzzle constructors selected by Will Shortz to produce their daily puzzles!

Ensembles under Leo Nestor's direction have achieved national prominence through recording, concert performances, and the liturgies frequently televised from the Washington Basilica. He was commissioned to compose music for apostolic visits to the U.S. by St. John Paul II, Benedict XVI and, in 2015, Pope Francis. Nestor's *What Sweeter Music* is a setting of Robert Herrick's 17th-century poem, whose full title is *A Christmas Carol, Sung To The King In The Presence at Whitehall*.

Ottawa-born C. Scott Tresham first came to public attention with the CBC's national broadcast of *Hodie Christus natus est* by the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir with members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra under Elmer Iseler. A long-time CBC classical music producer, Scott recently joined Concours Musical International de Montréal as director of artistic operations and strategy.

It is likely that Handel would have been astonished by the enduring success of his *Messiah*. He dashed off the score in a mere three weeks! Yet another in his long series of choral pieces, many of which are every bit as beautiful and rewarding as *Messiah*, it was a hit from the beginning. Today it is a safe guess that more people own recordings of *Messiah* than of any other classical work and, for many listeners, from devout Christians to thoroughgoing secularists, it simply doesn't seem like December until they've taken in a performance or two. (Source: Washington Source, Tim Page 2004)

In closing, we hope you enjoy our annual Christmas offering as much as we have enjoyed rehearsing and singing it for you. And, these words from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* sum up the wish we extend from our Phil family to yours: "It was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God Bless Us, Every One!"

THANKS

*The Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir would like to thank
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and Smokehouse Design for their marketing services.*

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

Aurora Sivertsen / Sightlines Photography



YURI KLAZ

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 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 Yeltzin, 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. Quickly becoming a leader in Winnipeg's choral community, in 2003 he was appointed Artistic Director and Conductor of The Winnipeg Singers, and now also directs the First Mennonite Church Choir. In 2005, Mr. Klaz made a critically acclaimed debut as a conductor with the WSO in a choral series that included 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 in several performances at the WSO's New Music Festival.

Mr. Klaz has directed choirs around the world, including the United States, Japan, Taiwan, Germany, Russia, Austria, France, Italy and The Netherlands, and has attended World Choral Symposiums in Vancouver, Minneapolis, Sydney, Kyoto and Copenhagen. In his more than 40-year career Mr. Klaz has conducted numerous major choral works, including J.S. Bach's *Mass in B minor* and *Weihnachts-Oratorium* (Christmas Oratorio); Handel's *Messiah*; Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*; Bruckner's *Requiem*; Mozart's *Requiem*; Mendelssohn's *Elijah*; Rutter's *Magnificat*; Pärt's *Berliner Messe* and, most recently, Rachmaninoff's *Vespers*.

In June 2010, Yuri Klaz was honoured with the Winnipeg Arts Council's "Making a Mark" award in recognition of his contribution to choral music performance. In July 2016 Mr. Klaz led The Winnipeg Singers' performance at the 5th International Choral Competition in Florence, bringing home the award for Best Choir: The Golden David.

GUEST ARTISTS

Winnipeg Brass Quintet

The Winnipeg Brass Quintet has been in existence since 1975. This group has enjoyed the opportunity to perform with universities, colleges, high schools and churches both in Canada and the United States giving clinics, workshops and recitals. They are especially known for local Christmas concerts and Easter services, but they also play recitals, weddings, church services, school concerts and many other special events. The Quintet has enjoyed a long tradition of music that has

been passed down through the generations. Current member Shannon Moses is the daughter of Fraser Linklater, one of the quintet's founders. She is joined by Dean Pollard, whose father Gary was the heart of the quintet for over 30 years. The Quintet is thrilled to join with the Winnipeg Philharmonic Choir to celebrate this Christmas season with you.



Donna Laube, piano

A native of Saskatchewan, Ms. Laube received a B. Mus. from Brandon University as a student of Dr. Joan Miller and subsequently her M. Music in Piano accompaniment from McGill University under the tutelage of Dale Bartlett. Ms. Laube is also an alumnus of the Franz-Schubert-Institute in Austria (with a focus on German Lieder and poetry), and of Opera Nuova in Edmonton. She has been active for the past decade as a pianist for singers, instrumentalists and choirs performing at international competitions as well as for CBC Radio Two. Ms. Laube is currently Principal Pianist with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and is performing as orchestral pianist with the WSO this season.



Wes Elias, organ

Wes Elias is an active Winnipeg musician who works as a private music teacher, performer, RCM examiner and church musician. He has served as organist at St. Andrew's River Heights United Church since 2009. Prior to this he was Music Director at Broadway-First Baptist Church for 17 years. Primary organ studies were with Douglas Bodle at the University of Toronto. Other organ teachers have included Winnifred Sim, Peter Letkemann and Lawrence Ritchey. He has appeared on numerous occasions with the Phil.



École Laura Secord School Chamber Choir

The École Laura Secord School Chamber Choir is made up of select students from the school's Intermediate Choir. Laura Secord School is a dual-track school, offering French and English programs, located in the heart of Wolseley, and was formally recognized as a Heritage Building in 1985.

Choir at Laura Secord School has been a tradition for over 100 years and the students regularly attend ChoralFest and the Winnipeg Music Festival.



Krista B. Janzen, conductor, graduated from the University of Manitoba Integrated Music/Education program in 2013 and began teaching music at Laura Secord that fall. She has sung in many choirs including: Prairie Voices, University of Manitoba Women's Chorus and Singers, and a capella group Antiphony. Krista performed at the Winnipeg Folk Festival in 2013 as part of the Young Performers Program and is a member of the Broadway-First Baptist Church Handbell Choir.



PHILHARMONIC CHORISTERS

Soprano

Elizabeth Abercrombie
Glynis Corkal
Linda Feasby
Eileen Funk
Wendy Gainsborough
Patricia Jordan
Caroline Klassen
Jessica Kowall
Annastasia Lambert
Betty Loewen
Judy Low
Kirstie MacLean
Janet Marchylo
Cheryl McNabb Davis
Alison Mitchell
Carolyn Penner
Pearl Stelmack
Christine Sveinson
Ingrid Thompson

Alto

Lucy Adamson
Gwen Allison
Diane Bilyj
Helen Black
Vida Chan
Marjory Kerr
Margruite Krahn
Veronica Larmour
Vivien Laurie
Brenda Marinelli
Sandi Mielitz
Mary Neufeld
Gail Singer
Nicola Spasoff
Pamela Tetlock
Adrienne Wiebe
Deanna Wiens

Tenor

Keith Black
Jeff Carter
Brian Fristensky
Marlon Goolcharan
David Koetke
Kas Kuropatwa
Leonard LaRue
Clem Toner

Bass

Ron Chapman
John Galayda
Robert Giesbrecht
Bruno Klassen
Peter Loewen
Christian MacDonald
Brian Marchylo
Dennis Penner
Bruce Thompson
Paul Wiebe

CHRISTMAS WITH THE PHIL: TRUMPETS SOUND, ANGELS SING!

Sunday, December 11, 2016

Westminster United Church

Yuri Klaz, conductor

The Winnipeg Brass Quintet:

Dean Pollard, Matthew McCrady – trumpet

Shannon Moses – French horn, Jason Kehler – trombone

Kenton McPeck – tuba

École Laura Secord School Chamber Choir – Krista Janzen, conductor

Wes Elias, organist

Donna Laube, pianist

Weihnachten	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Christmas Cantata	Daniel Pinkham (1923-2006)
<i>Featuring the Winnipeg Brass Quintet and Wes Elias, organ</i>	
Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow	John Rutter (1945-)
<i>Keith Black, tenor soloist</i>	
The First Noel	Dan Forrest (1978-)

AUDIENCE SING-ALONG

Joy to the World	Text by Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
	Music by Lowell Mason (1792-1872), arr. John Rutter

ÉCOLE LAURA SECORD SCHOOL CHAMBER CHOIR

Carol of the Snow	Ruth Morris Gray
Snow is Falling	Mary Donnelly and George L. O. Strid
Winter (from Four Seasonal Songs)	W. H. Anderson (1882-1955)
Je vois la neige qui danse (I See the Snow)	Words by Marilyn Bentov
	Music by Nic Page
Blizzard on the Way!	Jay Althouse

INTERMISSION

- What Child Is This?** arr. William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)
I Saw Three Ships arr. Andy Beck (1974-)
Leonard LaRue, glockenspiel

AUDIENCE SING-ALONG

- Good King Wenceslas** arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

WINNIPEG BRASS QUINTET

- Do You Hear What I Hear?** Gloria Shayne Baker, arr. G. Pollard
Carol of the Bells (*as performed by Pentatonix*) Mykola Leontovych,
arr. Matthew McCrady
Sussex Mummer's Christmas Carol Percy Grainger, arr. Michael Allen
Sleigh Ride Leroy Anderson, arr. David Kayser

- Magnificat in B-flat** Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)
Night of Silence Daniel Kantor (1960-)
What Sweeter Music Poem by Robert Herrick (1591-1674)
Music by Leo Nestor (1948-)
Hodie Christus Natus Est Scott Tresham (1974-)
Featuring the Winnipeg Brass Quintet and Wes Elias, organ

AUDIENCE SING-ALONG

- Hallelujah Chorus** from *Messiah* George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

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SING-ALONG CAROLS

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Good King Wenceslas

Good King Wenceslas look'd out
On the feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about,
Deep, and crisp, and even;
Brightly shone the moon that night,
Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight,
Gath'ring winter fuel.

“Hither, page, and stand by me,
If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?”
“Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence,
By Saint Agnes' fountain.”

“Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,
Bring me pinelogs hither:
Thou and I will see him dine,
When we bear them thither.”
Page and monarch, forth they went,
Forth they went together:
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather.

“Sire, the night is darker now,
And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how,
I can go no longer.”

“Mark my footsteps, my good page;
Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.”

In his master's steps he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
Which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor,
Shall yourselves find blessing.

THE WINNIPEG PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

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Isolation

April 8, at 7:30 pm & April 9 at 3 pm
St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church

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Auditioning for the Phil

- Come prepared to sing music of your choice. This could be a short aria, an art song, a folk song, a song from musical theatre, or a melody or section line from a choral piece you are familiar with.
- We will supply an accompanist, so please bring along a copy of your music for them.
- You may also be asked to explore your vocal range through a brief series of vocal exercises, sing a brief succession of intervals after hearing them played on the piano, and sight-sing a relatively simple passage in a comfortable vocal range.
- The entire audition will take about ten minutes.



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