

38th Annual National Conductors' Symposium

Jon Washburn and the Vancouver Chamber Choir



**FEBRUARY 12-17, 2018
VANCOUVER, BC CANADA**

An intensive workshop with Master Conductor **Jon Washburn** and Canada's premier choral ensemble, the **Vancouver Chamber Choir**.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

12-1pm	Get-Acquainted Luncheon
1-2pm	Orientation Session
2-4:30pm	VCC Conducting Session
7-9pm	Evaluation & Techniques Seminar

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

10am-12pm	VCC Conducting Session
12:30-1:20pm	Luncheon Discussion Session (Fundraising)
1:30-3:30pm	Evaluation & Techniques Seminar
7-10pm	VCC Conducting Session

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

10am-12pm	VCC Conducting Session
12:30-1:20pm	Luncheon Discussion Session (Marketing)
1:30-3:30pm	VCC Conducting Session
7-10pm	Evaluation & Techniques Seminar

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

10am-1:00pm	VCC Conducting Session
1:30-2:20pm	Luncheon Discussion Session (Administration and Boards)
2:30-4pm	Evaluation & Techniques Seminar
	Free Evening

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

10am-12:30pm	VCC Conducting Session
2-4pm	Evaluation & Techniques Seminar
7-9:30pm	VCC Conducting Session
7-9:30pm	Pacifica Singers Conducting Session for Observers

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

10:30am-12:30pm	Dress Rehearsal (at Dunbar Ryerson)
8pm	Concert (with reception following)

For the Pacifica Singers session, full-week observers will receive precedence. Luncheon Discussions are optional but require pre-registration. They are during lunch breaks, but do not include meals.

LOCATION FOR SYMPOSIUM:

Fraserview Mennonite Brethren Church
11295 Mellis Drive, Richmond, BC V6X 1L8

LOCATION FOR CONCERT:

Dunbar Ryerson United Church
2205 West 45th Avenue (at Yew), Vancouver, BC V6M 2J2

*"Each day was packed full with enlightening, educational activities. Jon Washburn is a true master of his craft."
Victoria Suchodolski, observer (Somerville, MA)*

38th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONDUCTORS' SYMPOSIUM

The Vancouver Chamber Choir's 38th National Conductors' Symposium is an opportunity to take part in master classes with Canada's premier choral ensemble. Master Conductor Jon Washburn provides invaluable instruction for selected choral conductors from across Canada, the United States and around the world.

Five applicants will be chosen as *conductors*. They each receive significant time conducting the Vancouver Chamber Choir in rehearsal and performance. Up to 10 more applicants will be selected as *observers*, involved in all aspects of the symposium including one opportunity to conduct if they wish.

Master Conductor Jon Washburn oversees the conducting and evaluation sessions – providing insight on choral techniques, conducting gesture and score interpretation. Each conducting session is video recorded so that participants can review their conducting between sessions. The five conductors each conduct a portion of the concert **MAESTRO!** on the Saturday night.

REPERTOIRE

The repertoire is chosen for both teaching and concert purposes. Mr. Washburn determines concert assignments in advance through consultation with the selected conductors. Each conductor then works intensively on his or her assigned pieces during the sessions with the choir. The 2018 repertoire consists of famous prayers, indigenous songs and story ballads.

George Oldroyd	Prayer to Jesu
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Ave verum corpus
Maurice Duruflé	Ubi caritas
Anton Bruckner	Ave Maria
Lukas Foss	Cool Prayers
Barry Cabena	Prayer of St. Francis
Se Enkhbayar	Zeregleent Gobi
Derek Healey	Salish Song
Lydia Adams	Mi'kmaq Honour Song
Gunnar Hahn	Rondo Lapponico
Stephen Chatman	Skidegate Love Song
Carl Crossin	Waltzing Matilda
Benjamin Britten	The Ballad of Green Broom
Béla Bartók	Wedding Song from Poniky
Lionel Daunais	Maryse and Partner
Jon Washburn	She's like the swallow
Johannes Brahms	Darthulas Grabesgesang
Stephen Chatman	Seattle Red

*"The Vancouver Chamber Choir singers were not only supportive, friendly, and encouraging, but incredibly responsive to each conductor. Their musical (and verbal) feedback played a big part in my learning process."
Cassandra Luftspring (Newcastle, ON)*

CONDUCTING SESSIONS

Receive more podium time than in any other symposium
Working on an individual basis with each conductor, Jon Washburn delves into the concepts and secrets of shaping tone, colour, blend, balance, diction, intonation, phrasing and a variety of other concepts through concentration on effective gesture, efficient rehearsal techniques and perceptive understanding of the score. Conducting sessions are tailored to match the specific needs of the participating conductors and are video recorded for further review and analysis.

EVALUATION & TECHNIQUES SEMINARS

Delve deeply into the choral art
Jon Washburn leads participants to a deeper understanding of choral music-making through elucidation of choral techniques, conducting gesture and score interpretation. Calling on over 46 years of experience with professional choirs, he helps conductors examine their own strengths and weaknesses through analysis, example and discussion.

LUNCHEON SESSIONS

Get answers to your management questions
As a bonus, the Choir's administrators offer a series of optional luncheon sessions on topics vital to the successful management of a choral ensemble. Drawing on their experience with Canada's premier choral organization, they will lead discussions with participants on the topics of: Fundraising, Marketing, Working with a Board of Directors, and Effective Administrative Structure.

CONCERT PERFORMANCE

Conduct the Vancouver Chamber Choir in concert
Jon Washburn and the five conductors will share the conducting of the Saturday night concert **MAESTRO!** Held at Dunbar Ryerson United Church, the concert marks the symposium's culmination and is followed by a reception for all participants.

DOCUMENTATION

Recordings
All conducting sessions are digitally video recorded. It is recommended that participants bring the necessary adaptors, memory cards, flash drives or other hardware required to transfer the video files to their own devices throughout the week. Audio recordings of the full concert performance will be made available to all participants for a small fee.

*"It was a stimulating opportunity to conduct professional singers. I appreciated the good amount of podium time on a daily basis and the precision of Mr. Washburn's comments. Having been an observer two years ago helped in feeling more at ease."
Monique Orvoine (Montréal, QC)*

PARTICIPATION

Conducting: The five selected conductors must be available for all dates and times during the symposium, including the concert.

Observing: Observers are invited to participate in all aspects of the symposium, and will be provided one conducting session should they wish to conduct. On the evening of Friday, February 16, observers will also have an opportunity for a conducting session with our associate ensemble, Pacifica Singers, under the supervision of their director, Fiona Blackburn.

Singing: Occasionally we accept highly qualified singers to augment the choir, but never more than one per section. The fee is the same as an observer. For further information about singing, contact Mr. Washburn through the Choir's office.

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation. For information or assistance, call or email Karen Seaboyer in the Vancouver Chamber Choir office. Participants should plan to arrive in Vancouver by the evening of Sunday, February 11 and return home no sooner than Sunday, February 18.



JON WASHBURN

Jon Washburn is the long-time conductor and artistic director of the Vancouver Chamber Choir. Internationally renowned for his mastery of choral technique and interpretation, he travels widely as guest conductor, lecturer, clinician and master teacher. He has guest conducted groups such as the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, Pro Coro Canada, the Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati, the Ontario and Manitoba Youth Choirs, and the National Youth Choir of Canada. As well, he has prepared choruses for Helmut Rilling, Tõnu Kaljuste, the Royal Swedish Chamber Orchestra, the Boston Pops Orchestra and several Canadian orchestras. He is a champion of new choral repertoire, having commissioned and premiered over 250 works by Canadian, American and European composers. He has given over 3,000 performances of 350 pieces by 120 Canadian composers with the Vancouver Chamber Choir alone, for which he received the Friends of Canadian Music Award from the Canadian League of Composers and Canadian Music Centre. He himself is an active composer, arranger, lyricist and editor, publishing with Walton Music, G. Schirmer, Roger Dean, Earthsongs and Oxford University Press.

Jon Washburn is a distinguished teacher of choral conducting and a noted authority on choral repertoire and programming. His conducting students hold important positions throughout Canada, the USA and internationally. The Vancouver Chamber Choir's annual week-long National Conductors' Symposium provides an opportunity for talented young conductors to pursue intensive repertoire and technique studies with Mr. Washburn, who has also periodically offered courses for less experienced conductors, such as the Festival 500 workshops in Newfoundland. He has shared conducting workshops with many other notable choral musicians, such as Eric Ericson, Margaret Hillis, Wayne Riddell, Dennis Keene and Gregg Smith. He has also taught young conductors through residencies at the Universities of Indiana, Cincinnati and Rio de Janeiro. In 2001 Mr. Washburn was named a Member of the Order of Canada (the nation's highest civilian honour) and in 2002 received Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee Medal in recognition of his lifetime contribution to Canadian choral art. In the fall of 2009, he was named a Canadian Music Centre Ambassador and in 2010 received a star on the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame's Starwalk. He received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. In June 2014 he received the Michael Korn Founders Award for Development of the Professional Choral Art, presented by Chorus America.

Jon Washburn founded Canada's outstanding professional vocal ensemble, the 20-voice Vancouver Chamber Choir, in 1971. Under his guidance this ensemble has become an amazing success story, ranking with the handful of North America's best professional choruses. In June 1998, the Vancouver Chamber Choir received the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence, presented at the annual Chorus America conference - the only previous winners in the professional chorus category had been Chanticleer and the Dale Warland Singers. In June 2000, Mr. Washburn and the Choir were honoured with two awards at the 2000 Chorus America conference including the prestigious Louis Botto award, given in recognition of Mr. Washburn's innovative and entrepreneurial spirit in the development of a professional choral ensemble of exceptional quality. Jon Washburn and the Vancouver Chamber Choir have performed countless concerts and dozens of CBC radio and television broadcasts. They have issued 36 recordings, including the best-selling *Baroquefest* collaboration, ten collections of choral works by Canadian composers Stephen Chatman, Imant Raminsh, R. Murray Schafer, Jon Washburn and Healey Willan, *A Dylan Thomas Christmas* and the three outstanding *Music for Healing* discs, including *Finding the Still Point*, *Unexpected Gifts* and *A Quiet Place*.

"When the invitation arrived to be an observer, I initially hesitated to accept. However, I am VERY glad that I decided to pursue this project! The entire week was run with professionalism and efficiency. It was such a pleasure to conduct and observe...many new concepts and techniques...food for thought and inspiration for a long time to come!"

Linda Crawford, observer (Vankleek Hill, ON)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Vancouver Chamber Choir would like to thank the following foundations and corporations who assist our outreach and educational programs:



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Andrew Mahon Foundation | Chan Sisters Foundation
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The S.M. Blair Family Foundation
The Simons Foundation

We also gratefully acknowledge the support of:



Vancouver Chamber Choir
JON WASHBURN, CONDUCTOR

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38th Annual National Conductors' Symposium

Application Deadline: **November 22, 2017.**

Applicants will be informed of their acceptance by: December 2, 2017.

All conducting and observing applicants must include a brief *curriculum vitae*; a short statement of their conducting goals; the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of two references; and a short DVD of a recent performance or rehearsal.

Name

Address

City & Prov/State Postal/Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Number (Including Area Code)

Facebook Username Twitter Username

Email

I would like to (*please rank your preferences 1st, 2nd, and 3rd*):

___ Conduct \$650 CDN*
___ Observe (*music package included*) \$325 CDN*
___ Observe on a daily basis (*space permitting; music package extra*) \$50 CDN*

* International applicants: visit www.xe.com/ucc for current currency conversion.

I wish to participate in the following Luncheon Discussions:

- Fundraising (Tuesday)
 Marketing (Wednesday)
 Administration & Boards (Thursday)

Please ensure all support materials as requested above plus a non-refundable deposit of \$30 CDN are received by **November 22, 2017**. [Applicants from the past five years need not repeat this deposit.]

Payment by: Cheque Visa MasterCard

Account Number Expiry Date

Signature

Send your application to:

Vancouver Chamber Choir (NCS)

1254 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC Canada V6H 1B6

Fax 604-738-7832 | Email info@vancouverchamberchoir.com

www.vancouverchamberchoir.com