

CONDUCTOR  
KARI  
TURUNEN



# 23/24 SEASON





## TELLING AND LISTENING TO STORIES IS AN INNATE PART OF BEING HUMAN.

Story-telling has always been a central means of passing on and preserving culture. No wonder we are captivated by few things as completely as a good story or a good story-teller. And when these stories are sung, their emotional power is often multiplied.

I see choral music as the telling of stories. In performing historical works, we are preserving and sometimes bringing back to life centuries of human experience. And when we perform works of our time, we create a mosaic of voices that depicts and reflects our own time. No one story we tell is the whole truth, but the many voices and many stories we present help us make sense of the world we inhabit. And through music, we can reach emotional levels and means of community and mutual respect that words too often struggle to express.

Come and hear the stories we tell!

KARI TURUNEN,  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



### ABOUT THE CHOIR

For over 50 years, the Vancouver Chamber Choir has been thrilling audiences across Canada and around the world with exceptional live performances and recordings. A flagship choral organization ranking with a handful of North America's best professional choruses, the choir has been a leading contributor to the choral landscape in education and outreach, commissions and premieres, choral professionalism and artistic excellence in the choral arts.

Artistic Director Kari Turunen began leading the Vancouver Chamber Choir in September 2019, its 49th concert season. Since its formation in 1971 by Founder and Conductor Emeritus Jon Washburn, the choir has produced almost 40 studio recordings and is included on a dozen more compilations, two of which have been nominated for JUNO awards. Honoured with the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence by Chorus America, the choir has performed countless concerts and broadcasts across Europe, Asia and North America.

Foremost supporters of Canadian music, the choir is responsible for commissions and premieres of over 400 choral works by 150 composers and arrangers, most of whom are Canadian. Over the years the choir has sung over 4,000 performances of works by Canadian composers, in addition to an extensive international repertoire.

The choir's award-winning educational and outreach programs include interactive workshops for advanced choral conductors and choral composers, a professional development program for student singers, masterclasses at schools, and many other workshops and residencies on tour and at home.



PROGRAM 1

PROGRAM 2

**Friday**  
**Sept 22, 2023**  
7:30 pm

**Pacific Spirit**  
**United Church**  
2195 W 45th Ave

**Friday**  
**Oct 20, 2023**  
7:30 pm

**St. Andrew's-Wesley**  
**United Church**  
1022 Nelson St

**CONDUCTOR**  
Kari Turunen

Join us for an exciting opening night as we launch our 53rd season! Featuring FOUR world premieres, this highly varied program offers a scintillating contemporary vision of nature, the environment, and the land we live on.

October brings the first guest artist of the season as we welcome our 23/24 composer-in-residence, Andrew Balfour. Balfour will be wearing multiple hats in this concert as a guest conductor, curator, and composer. Drawing on his Cree heritage, the program features Andrew's **Waawaa-Steewak**, meaning "northern lights" in Cree, juxtaposed with Mexican and Spanish Renaissance music, including works by Indigenous composer Manuel de Sumaya. Join us for this breathtaking concert that's sure to leave you wanting more!

**CONDUCTOR**  
Andrew Balfour



**VIOLA**  
Emily Eng

musica  
intima  
VOCAL ENSEMBLE

PROGRAM 3

PROGRAM 4

emv:

MESSIAH

NIGHTINGALES

A co-production with  
musica intima

**Saturday**  
**Nov 25, 2023**  
7:30 pm

**St. Andrew's-Wesley**  
**United Church**  
1022 Nelson St

**Friday**  
**Dec 8, 2023**  
7:30 pm

**The Orpheum**  
601 Smithe St

A co-production with  
**Early Music Vancouver**

**RECORDER**  
Vincent Lauzer



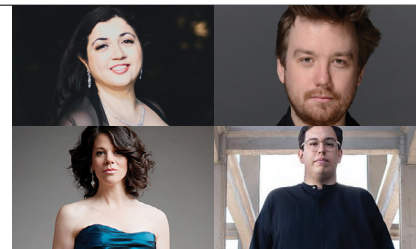
Vancouver's two fully professional vocal groups meet to perform the magnificent work ***The Nightingale*** by Latvian composer Uģis Prauliņš. Based on Hans Christian Andersen's tale of the Emperor and the Nightingale, this work is both a large-scale choral piece and a virtuosic recorder concerto. We're delighted to welcome Vincent Lauzer as our recorder soloist for this concert. You'll also be in for a treat as musica intima and the Vancouver Chamber Choir perform solo sets to round out this epic event.

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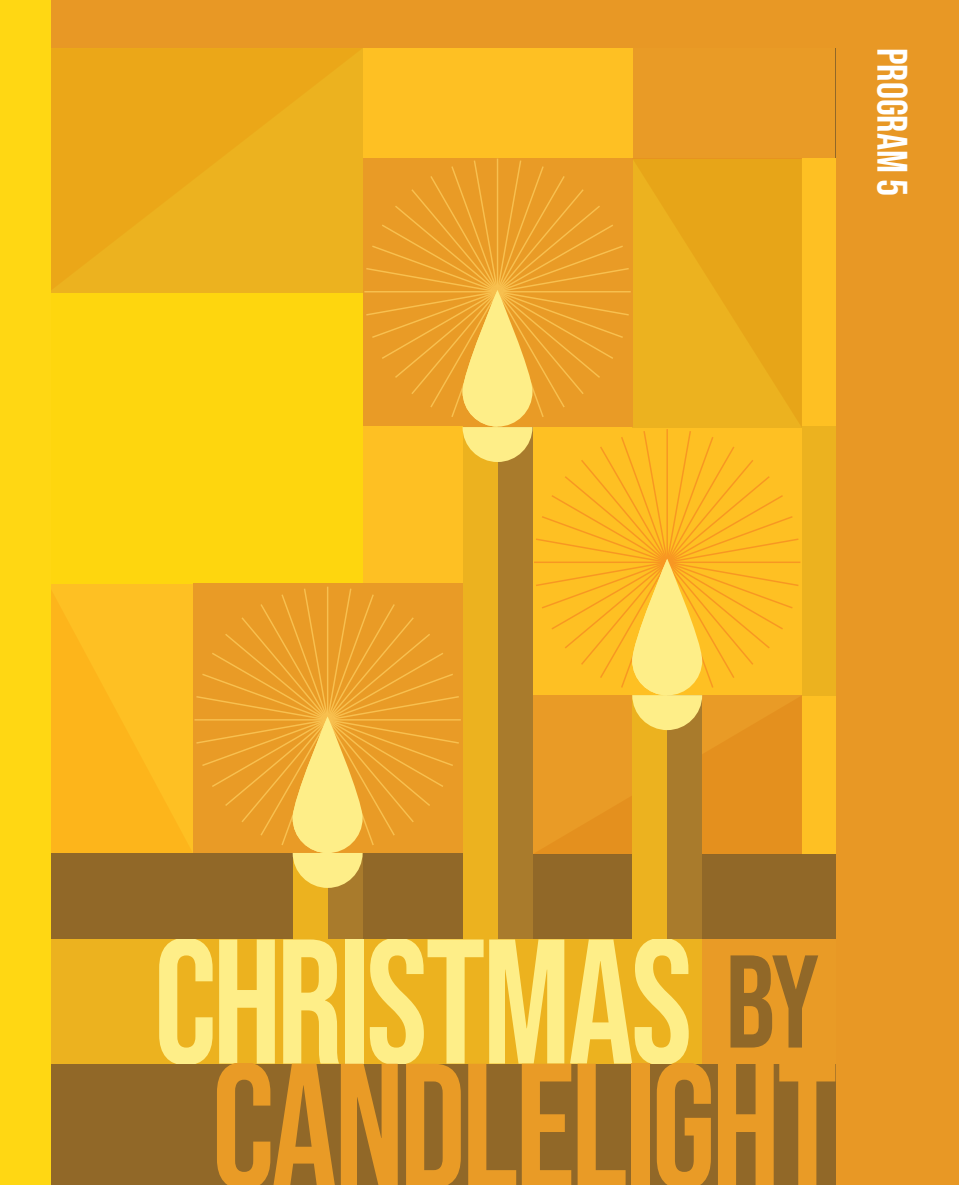
Under the direction of Alexander Weimann, the Vancouver Chamber Choir joins forces with the Pacific Baroque Orchestra and four soloists of the highest calibre to present the much-loved ***Messiah*** by G.F. Handel. Prepare to hear this classic work approached with fresh energy and drive!

**CONDUCTOR**  
Alexander  
Weimann

**WITH**  
Sherezade Panthaki  
Allyson McHardy  
Nicholas Scott  
Jonathon Adams  
+  
Pacific Baroque  
Orchestra



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**Friday**  
**Dec 22, 2023**  
 6:30 pm & 8:30 pm

**Pacific Spirit**  
**United Church**  
 2195 W 45th Ave

**CONDUCTOR**  
 Kari Turunen

We started a new tradition in 2022 by offering our first Christmas by Candlelight. Audiences loved the contemplative atmosphere which allowed them to lean back and enjoy an hour of calm during the hectic preparations for Christmas. Join us for our second Christmas by Candlelight as we present music by Lauridsen, Quartel, Whittall, and more.



**Saturday**  
**Jan 27, 2024**  
 7:30 pm

**Pacific Spirit**  
**United Church**  
 2195 W 45th Ave

**CONDUCTOR**  
 Kari Turunen  
 with  
**Lord Byng Secondary**  
 Lisa Lan,  
*Director of*  
*Choral Activities*

This year's youth event combines Focus, our post-secondary students' choir, the winning contributions of our Young Composers' Competition of 2023, and a guest youth choir. As if that's not exciting enough, the Chamber Choir will be premiering Tamsin Jones' *Time is* and performing Frank Martin's marvelous *Songs of Ariel*. This concert is a bubbly, optimistic, and energetic affair that will lift your spirits in the middle of winter.



PROGRAM 7

Friday  
Feb 16, 2024  
7:30 pm

Pacific Spirit  
United Church  
2195 W 45th Ave

CONDUCTOR  
Kari Turunen

Our 2024 Conductors' Symposium focuses on music that reflects the harsh reality of war and our deep desire for peace. Join the five student conductors and Kari for an evening of music that ranges from folk songs to evocative, complex choral works, including Arnold Schönberg's magnificent and seldom performed *Friede auf Erden*.



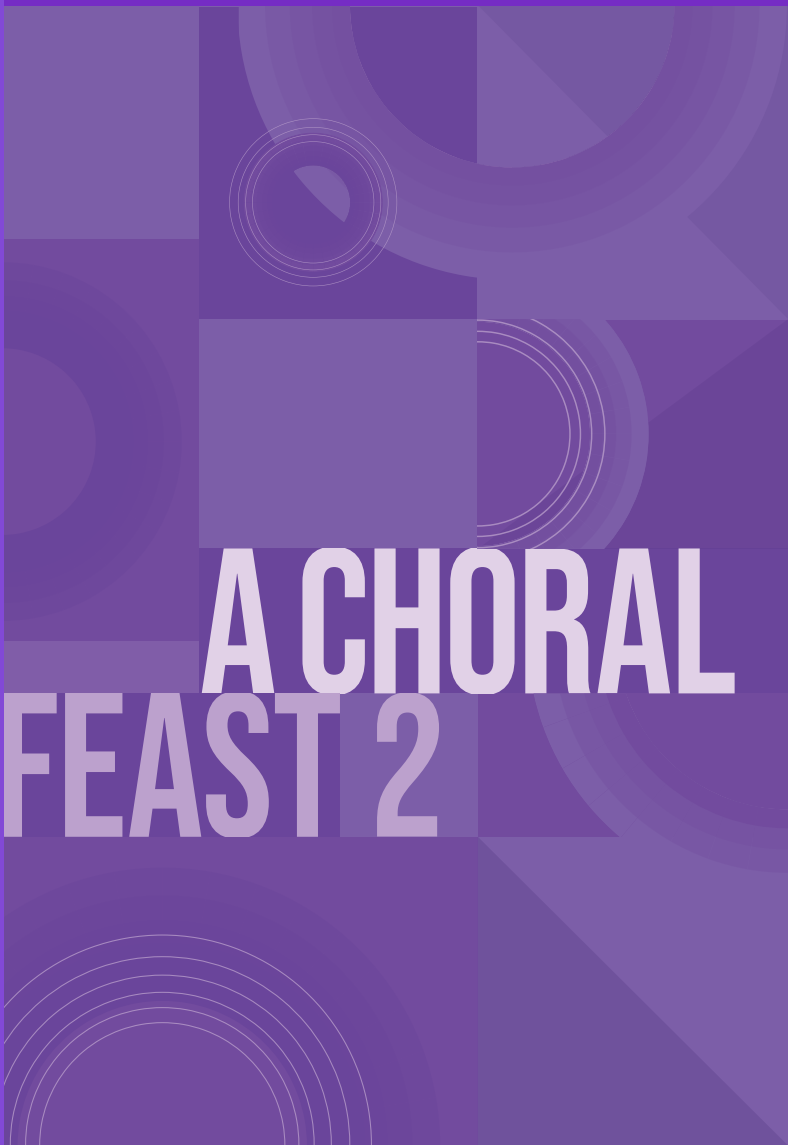
PROGRAM 8

Friday  
Mar 8, 2024  
7:30 pm

Christ Church  
Cathedral  
690 Burrard St

CONDUCTOR  
Kari Turunen

This is a concert that will offer the unexpected - choral music that is at once demanding and exhilarating. The program will feature classic works like Benjamin Britten's *Sacred and Profane* and Frank Martin's Mass for Double Choir along with classics in the making like Veljo Tormis' *Curse Upon Iron*.



PROGRAM 9

PROGRAM 10



CONDUCTORS

**Elektra Women's Choir**  
Morna Edmundson

**British Columbia Girls Choir**  
Cassie Luftspring

**EnChor**  
Morna Edmundson

**Akademiska Sångföreningen**  
Elisa Huovinen

**Vancouver Chamber Choir**  
Kari Turunen

**Friday  
Apr 19, 2024**  
7:30 pm

**St. Andrew's-Wesley  
United Church**  
1022 Nelson St

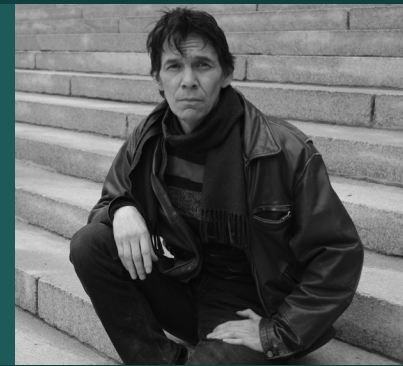
Our Choral Feast in November 2022 gathered six brilliant local choirs onto the Orpheum stage and was a real audience favourite. A Choral Feast 2 features three excellent local choirs and an international guest, this time under the high ceiling of St. Andrew's-Wesley. An event not to be missed.

**Friday  
May 24, 2024**  
7:30 pm

**St Philip's  
Anglican Church**  
3737 W 27th Ave

Join us for an intimate guided tour of works from the 15th and 16th centuries. Featuring music by Josquin, Ockeghem, and Dufay, this concert traces the lineage between famous composers and their elder peers.

**CONDUCTOR**  
Kari Turunen



## ANDREW BALFOUR

Of Cree descent (from Fisher River First Nation), Winnipeg-born, Toronto-based composer Andrew Balfour is an innovative composer/conductor/singer/sound designer with a large body of choral, instrumental, electroacoustic and orchestral works. His works have been performed and/or broadcast locally, nationally and internationally. More recently he has returned from a national tour of his album *Nagamo*, commissioned and performed by the Vancouver-based vocal ensemble *musica intima* and nominated for a 2023 Juno award.

Andrew has also worked and collaborated with many of Canada's leading Indigenous musicians, including Buffy Sainte-Marie, Jeremy Dutcher and Cris Derksen, to name but a few. In 2021 Andrew co-lead the Indigenous Classical Music summit at the Banff Centre for the Arts.

He is also the founder and Artistic Director of the innovative, 14-member vocal group *Dead of Winter*, now in its 22nd year of offering a concert series in Winnipeg. Through this position, Andrew has specialized in creating "concept concerts" with Indigenous subject matter and collaborators. These innovative offerings explore a theme through an eclectic array of music, including new works, arrangements and innovative inter-genre and interdisciplinary collaborations.

Andrew is passionate about music education and outreach, particularly in Northern communities and inner-city schools where he has worked on behalf of the National Arts Centre, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and various school divisions for the past ten years. In 2007 he received the Mayor of Winnipeg's Making a Mark Award, sponsored by the Winnipeg Arts Council, to recognize the most promising midcareer artist in the city.

**Saturday  
June 8, 2024**  
7:30 pm

**Museum of  
Anthropology at UBC**  
6393 NW Marine Dr

**CONDUCTOR**  
Kari Turunen

**LIBRETTIST**  
Jean Teillet

**COMPOSER**  
T. Patrick Carrabré

**GUEST ARTIST**  
Russell Wallace

Jean Teillet and T. Patrick Carrabré, both of Métis heritage, have created a wonderful work of art reflecting Métis history and traditions. This commissioned work is the centrepiece of a concert that focuses on Canadian Indigenous choral music in a wonderful setting.

# EDUCATION AND OUTREACH 2023/24

The Vancouver Chamber Choir is devoted to mentoring and encouraging new talent and is a leader in educational initiatives and community outreach programs. These activities provide a critical link with today's youth, foster an appreciation of choral music and contribute and encourage the growth and innovation of the choral arts in Canada.

## ONSITE (September 2023-May 2024)

OnSite offers a unique behind-the-scenes learning opportunity to elementary and secondary students in the Lower Mainland who are invited to attend a rehearsal, to interact with Kari Turunen and the singers, and then to attend the corresponding concert. This year members of the choir will also be available to travel to schools to coach, mentor and inspire young singers in their own choral learning environment, on a limited basis. Thanks to the generous support of our program patrons, OnSite is free of charge to all participating students and teachers.

## CONDUCTORS' SYMPOSIUM (February 11-16, 2024)

The Conductors' Symposium provides advanced training in choral conducting from Master Conductor Kari Turunen to university, school, church and community choir directors from around the world. Five participants will be given significant time over a full week to conduct the choir in rehearsal, with emphasis given to score interpretation as well as choral techniques and gestures. This year's focus will be music of the 20th century. The week culminates with our *War & Peace* concert on February 16, 2024.

## INTERPLAY (November 16, 2023 and May 7, 2024)

Interplay is an interactive workshop for Canadian composers who write for chorus: it provides them with the opportunity to workshop their in-progress or recently completed choral works with Kari and the choir. The conductor, singers, and composer may dialogue about musical and technical features, textures, colours, notation, and many other aspects of successful choral writing. Each workshop is closely tailored to the needs and interests of the individual composer. There is no charge to composers for the workshops, thanks to the generous support of the SOCAN Foundation and other supporters of our educational programs.

## FOCUS (January 23-27, 2024)

Focus is a brief but intensive introduction to the world of professional choral singing for post-secondary students in music departments across the Lower Mainland who are nominated by their school's choral conductor. The selected students will rehearse with the professional singers of the Vancouver Chamber Choir and perform at *Horizons* on January 27, 2024 at Pacific Spirit United Church.

For more information, please visit  
[www.vancouverchamberchoir.com/outreach](http://www.vancouverchamberchoir.com/outreach)

# THE VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING:



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# 2023/24 SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES

## THE WHOLE SONGBOOK

For those who don't want to miss a single second of the action, THE WHOLE SONGBOOK grants you access to all 11 concerts this season.

## DOWNTOWN SERIES

5 incredible shows in the heart of downtown Vancouver! Join us at Christ Church Cathedral, St. Andrew's-Wesley, and the Orpheum for a series filled with exciting guest artists and co-productions. This series includes: Waawaa-Steewak, Nightingales, Messiah, Sacred & Profane, and A Choral Feast 2.

## PACIFIC SPIRIT SERIES

There's a reason we've been performing at Pacific Spirit United Church for over 50 years! Come and join us for 4 concerts in the heart of Kerrisdale to find out why. This series includes: Mosaic, Christmas by Candlelight, Horizons, and War & Peace.

## 4 OR MORE

Looking to build your own custom subscription? Look no further than 4 OR MORE. Simply pick 4 or more concerts and you'll be in for a treat. If you decide that 4 concerts isn't quite enough, you can buy more tickets at any time.

## NEW: UNDER 35 TICKETS

In addition to our Adult and Senior ticket prices, we are pleased to introduce our new **Under 35** ticket rate for young adults. Subscriptions and individual tickets will be available for all ticket types.

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