



VANCOUVER
CHAMBER CHOIR

26



27

CONDUCTOR

KARI
TURUNEN



WELCOME

The 2026/27 season of the Vancouver Chamber Choir is full of possibilities. Whether your cup of tea is contemporary choral music, early music, choral-orchestral works, choral classics with organ, or exciting combinations of choral music and dance, we have you covered. Whether you want to carefully pick and choose your concerts, or hear every note by purchasing the Whole Songbook, we will be delighted to see you at our concerts.

When you browse this brochure, you will notice that the season offers an array of concerts outside of our own subscription series – chances to hear us in less typical contexts. You will even find a first announcement of our inaugural Summer Festival in August 2027. So much great music to look forward to, and so many experiences to be shared. Welcome to the 56th Season of the Vancouver Chamber Choir!

**KARI
TURUNEN**

**ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR**



ABOUT THE CHOIR

For over 55 years, the Vancouver Chamber Choir, Canada's longest-running professional 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

FRIDAY | OCT 2, 2026

7:30PM

ST. ANDREW'S WESLEY UNITED CHURCH
1022 NELSON ST, VANCOUVER

Powerful, beautiful, and emotional are the first words that come to mind when thinking of Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem*. Joined by organist Neil Cockburn, this masterpiece launches our season and provides a beacon of light for an increasingly troubled world. This concert also introduces our 2026/27 composer in residence, Tawnie Olson.

Featuring:

Neil Cockburn, Organ

Including:

Maurice Duruflé — *Requiem, Op. 9*

Tawnie Olson — *Missa Brevis*

Arvo Pärt — *Salve regina*



BEACON
&
LIGHT

PROGRAM 2

FRIDAY | NOV 13, 2026
SATURDAY | NOV 14, 2026
7:30PM

VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE
600 HAMILTON ST, VANCOUVER

Based on the story by Hans Christian Andersen, David Lang's Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Little Match Girl Passion* pairs sublime choral music with boundary-breaking choreography by renowned American choreographer, Kevin O'Day. Featuring dancers from Belle Spirale Dance Projects alongside the Choir, this co-production walks the tightrope between despair and hope, tale and reality, the past, and the present.

Co-production with
Belle Spirale Dance Projects

LITTLE MATCH GIRL



PROGRAM 3

FRIDAY | DEC 18, 2026

6:30PM & 8:30PM

PACIFIC SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH
2195 W 45TH AVE W, VANCOUVER

Our ever-popular **Christmas by Candlelight** production returns with a brand-new set list! Sit back, relax, and bask in the warm embrace of flickering candles and angelic voices.

Including:

Arvo Pärt — *Seven Magnificat Antiphones*



CHRISTMAS
By
CANDLELIGHT

SATURDAY | JAN 30, 2027

7:30PM

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
690 BURRARD STREET, VANCOUVER

Imagine a tale of shipwrecks, hostages, and....royal choirs? We thought this was going to be about pirates too, but **The Shipwreck** is based on a real-life incident from 1506: King Philip the Handsome washing up on the English coast and being held hostage by King Henry VII. Philip's chapel choir accompanied him on the voyage, and this concert is an imagined meeting between these rulers and their choirs. This concert has been curated by UBC Professor Emeritus, Dr. J. Evan Kreider.

Including:

Music from the Court of Henry VII

Music from the Habsburg Court of Philip the Handsome



THE SHIPWRECK

PROGRAM 5

FRIDAY | FEB 12, 2027
7:30PM

PACIFIC SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH
2195 W 45TH AVE W, VANCOUVER

Join us for the closing performance of the 47th Annual Conductors' Symposium, featuring five emerging Canadian and international conductors sharing the podium with Kari Turunen. This year's theme is music by Canadian women composers.

As part of our community outreach, we are planning to offer an open rehearsal and will announce details at a later date.

*THIS CONCERT IS NOT INCLUDED
IN SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES

CONDUCTORS' SYMPOSIUM



PROGRAM 6

SATURDAY | MAR 6, 2027

7:30PM

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
690 BURRARD STREET, VANCOUVER

After a week touring cold, crisp Alberta, the choir returns home with a program celebrating the arrival of Spring. Join us as we trade rain for rainbows, grey skies for golden afternoons, and chilly mornings for chilled beverages. Joining us for this concert is our annual FOCUS Choir composed of local post-secondary singers from across the Lower Mainland.

Including:

Alex Freeman — *Cathedral of Spring*

Tawnie Olson — *Beloved of the Sky*



CATHEDRAL

SPRING

PROGRAM 7

FRIDAY | APR 9, 2027

7:30PM

PACIFIC SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH
2195 W 45TH AVE W, VANCOUVER

Just in time for Earth Day, Irish conductor Bernie Sherlock has curated a program exploring the power and beauty of water through contemporary choral music inspired by the sea, rain, and storms.

Featuring:

Bernie Sherlock, Guest Conductor

Including:

Tarik O'Regan — *The Spring*

R. Murray Schafer — *Miniwanka (The Moments of Water)*

Matthew Whittall — *As One Listens To The Rain*

THE MOMENTS *of* WATER

PROGRAM 8

SATURDAY | MAY 29, 2027

7:30PM

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
690 BURRARD STREET, VANCOUVER

After years of planning, the Vancouver Chamber Choir and Vancouver Youth Choir join forces for a tantalizing showcase performance. Known for their jaw-dropping performances fusing diverse repertoire and compelling choreography, VYC will help us end our subscription season on a high note!

Featuring:

Vancouver Youth Choir
Carrie Tennant, Artistic Director

Including:

Tawnie Olson — *WORLD PREMIERE*



A CHORAL FEAST 5



ARTISTIC PARTNERSHIPS 2026/27 SEASON

Music for the Little Ice Age

Christ Church Cathedral

Friday, September 18, 2026 @ 7:30pm

Produced by Early Music Vancouver

Ode to Lotta, A Canadian Choral Cantata

by David Rain

Vancouver Unitarians

Saturday, November 28, 2026 @ 3:00pm

Presented in cooperation with David Rain

Christmas by Candlelight

Kay Meek Arts Centre

Sunday, December 13, 2026 @ 3:00pm

Presented by the Kay Meek Arts Centre

**Please watch for announcements
about future events and collaborations.**



ANNOUNCING THE
VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR'S

INAUGURAL SUMMER SERIES

Thursday, August 19, 2027

Colourful Canada with the Orchid Ensemble

Friday, August 20, 2027

Choral Jazz with Triology

Saturday, August 21, 2027

Music by J.S. Bach

Full details will be available in **Spring 2027**.

TAWNIE OLSON

Who are you and what do you do?

I am a Canadian freelance composer who writes instrumental and vocal music. My compositions draw inspiration from politics, spirituality, the natural world, and the musicians for whom I compose. When not composing, I can be found attending concerts, singing in choirs, gardening, baking, or curled up with a book.

How did you get started in music?

I actually got started in dance before I had a chance to study music. My mother loves dancing and signed me up for classes when I was still a toddler. I had to wait a few years to get the piano and flute lessons I wanted, but in the meantime I developed an intuitive, deeply physical connection to rhythm and metre that has shaped my work as a composer.

What drew you to choral/classical music?

I love writing vocal music in part because I love working with text. Nearly all my choral music grows out of a desire to express (that is, interpret) a text musically. Also, the sound of human voices singing and blending together is indescribably beautiful.

Why are you excited to work with the Vancouver Chamber Choir in 2026/27?

I first encountered the Vancouver Chamber Choir as a teenager through recordings and CBC broadcasts. I have to pinch myself that I get to work with a group I've admired for decades! I was thrilled with the VCC's Canadian premiere of my *Beloved of the Sky*, which followed shortly after the piece's world premieres by The Crossing, Seraphic Fire, and the BYU Barlow Singers. I couldn't be happier to have Kari and the marvellous musicians of the choir performing my music this season.

For more information about Tawnie, please visit <http://www.tawnieolson.com>



EDUCATIONAL AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH 2026/27

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 to and encourage the growth and innovation of the choral arts in Canada.

ONSITE

(September 2026–June 2027)

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, interact with Kari Turunen and the singers, and then attend the corresponding concert. This year members of the choir will also be available to travel to schools (on a limited basis) to coach, mentor, and inspire young singers in their own choral learning environment. Thanks to the generous support of our program sponsors, OnSite is free of charge to all participating students and teachers.

CONDUCTORS' SYMPOSIUM

(February 7-12, 2027)

The Conductors' Symposium provides advanced training in choral conducting to university, school, church, and community choir directors from around the world. Under the guidance of Kari Turunen, 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 by Canadian women composers. The week culminates with a demonstration and concert on February 12, 2027.

INTERPLAY

(November 18, 2026 and May 12, 2027)

Interplay is an interactive workshop for Canadian choral composers who are looking to workshop their in-progress or recently completed choral works with a professional 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. Thanks to the generous support of our funders, there is no charge to composers for the workshop.

FOCUS

(March 5 & 6, 2027)

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. Selected students will rehearse with the professional singers of the Vancouver Chamber Choir and perform at **Cathedral of Spring** on March 6, 2027 at Christ Church Cathedral.

YOUNG COMPOSERS' COMPETITION

(December 2027)

The Young Composers' Competition runs every two years and offers young choral composers from Canada and around the world the opportunity to submit an original composition for prize and/or performance consideration. The competition has three age brackets: Elementary (8-12), Secondary (13-18), and Post-Secondary (18-25). Full details will be announced in Spring 2027.

For more information, please visit

www.vancouverchamberchoir.com/outreach



VSO SCHOOL OF MUSIC

VSO School of Music x Vancouver Chamber Choir

The VSO School of Music proudly welcomes the Vancouver Chamber Choir as **26/27 Artists in Residence**, and instructors in the Coram Deo Foundation Choral Department.

The VSO School of Music's choral program offers a uniquely holistic musical education found nowhere else in the region. Singers of all ages learn to use their voices with confidence and artistry while experiencing rare cross-disciplinary opportunities — performing with instrumental ensembles, collaborating with jazz and early-music specialists, and receiving mentorship from professional musicians of both the Vancouver Chamber Choir and the VSO School of Music.

From joyful first notes to advanced pre-professional training, our choirs nurture musical skill, creativity, and community through integrated learning that connects singers to the wider world of music-making.

Beginner Choir (Ages 6–9)

A playful introduction to singing through games, movement, and creative exploration.

Youth Choir (Ages 10–14)

A motivating ensemble with VCC mentorship, rhythmic training, and performance with string ensembles.

Youth Choir (Ages 15–18)

Advanced repertoire, cross-disciplinary modules, and tailored coaching from VCC singers.

VCC Choral Scholars (Ages 17–22)

Auditioned pre-professional training alongside the Vancouver Chamber Choir.

Evergreen Choir (55+)

A warm, community-focused ensemble with supportive instruction and meaningful performance opportunities.

www.vsoschoolofmusic.ca/program-category/choral/



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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2026/27 SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES

THE WHOLE SONGBOOK

Enjoy **7 concerts** (excluding Symposium) this season at a 20% discount off regular price.

BUILD YOUR OWN

Pick **3 or more concerts** (excluding Symposium) and enjoy a 15% discount off regular price. Additional discounted tickets are available at any time.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE
STARTING JUNE 15, 2026**



HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ORDER

Option 1

Head to **www.vancouverchamberchoir.com** to purchase your subscription package online.

Option 2

Download an order form and email it to **info@vancouverchamberchoir.com**.

Option 3

Having issues with the website or PDF?
Please call the office at **604-738-6822** and one of our friendly staff members will be happy to help process your order.

Vancouver Chamber Choir

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**VANCOUVER
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