

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14, 2024 3:00 PM



A Classical Christmas

Including sing-along

Artistic Director Edette Gagné
Collaborative Pianist Karen Lee-Morlang

WEST POINT GREY UNITED CHURCH

4595 8 AVE. W · VANCOUVER, BC

VIVALDI CHAMBER CHOIR A Classical Christmas

Edette Gagné, Artistic Director and Conductor Karen Lee-Morlang, Collaborative Pianist

West Point Grey United Church, December 14, 2024

A Message from Edette Gagné

Christmas is one of my favourite times of the year. I could honestly listen to the kind of music we are presenting to you this afternoon all year long. Not the pop and modern seasonal offerings (which absolutely have their charm) but this kind of superbly crafted "classical" music that makes my heart sing.

As I would in my hobby as a chef, I have tried to create an interesting "tasting menu" for you to enjoy this afternoon. I have chosen a wide variety of flavours and complexities pulled from many different eras and styles.

There are some "well-aged" compositions, like the antiphonally sung "In dulci jubilo" and "Resonet in laudibus". There is a delightful Christmas Cantata by Kunau (incorrectly attributed to Bach), which will feature two of our basses playing a variety of recorders. There are some lush early 20th century gems by Herbert Howells and Peter Warlock where we feel the expansion of harmonic possibilities. There are traditional/folk melodies from Ireland, England and France, arranged by some of our favourite people including our own David Millard. Rounding out our "musical menu" are several powerful original compositions by 20th century composers - John Rutter, William Matthias, David Willcocks, and Canadian icon Healey Willan. As a personal aside, the Rutter on this program is unlike any other Rutter I have sung or conducted... it is absolutely majestic.

I am thrilled to feature my amazing Artistic Team in this show - our section leads Jack, Steve and Dinah have solos in the Kuhnau, and Erika has a haunting work all to herself. Our new collaborative pianist, Karen, shimmers in the Kuhnau and wows in the Willcocks and Matthias.

We hope that you will join us in the hall after the show for refreshments and a sing-along of Christmas Carols (lyrics await you in the hall).

We also hope that we will see all of you (and all your friends and family) at the Orpheum Theatre on Sunday, March 30, 2025 - when we will present Brahms' German Requiem with full orchestra and exceptional Canadian soloists.

PROGRAMME

Hodie Christus Natus Est Healey Willan 1880–1968

Words of Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Angelus ad Virginem Mediæval carol arr. Sir David Willcocks 1919–2015

My Soul doth Magnify the Lord John Rutter b. 1945

Resonet in Laudibus Bartłomiej Pękiel ca. 1600–ca. 1670

Bethlehem Down Peter Warlock 1894–1930

A Babe is Born William Mathias 1934–1992

Here is the Little Door

Herbert Howells 1892–1983

Uns ist ein Kind geboren Johann Kuhnau 1660–1722 (formerly attributed to J. S. Bach)

Soloists: Jack Foster, Steve Froese, Dinah Ayre

Recorders: David Millard, Mike Millard

Adam Lay Ybounden Peter Warlock

Performed by Erika Pryer and Karen Lee-Morlang

In Dulci Jubilo Michael Praetorius 1571–1621

Birthday Carol Sir David Willcocks

The Gloucestershire Wassail arr. David Millard b. 1959

Ding Dong! Merrily on High arr. David Millard

(We Wish You) A Merry Christmas arr. Arthur Warrell 1883–1939



Please join us in the Church Hall after the performance for refreshments and carolling

The Choir

Sopranos

Michelle Arduini; Yasmine Bia; Susie Britnell; Arianna Cheveldave; Sophia Chan; Winnie Gibson; Denise Gilbert; Sarah Lamont;

Sarah Little; Freda Miller; Erika Pryer*

Tenors

Matt Emery; Steve Froese*; Matthew Hunter; David Kaplan; Curtis Umpherville, Jorge Vega

Altos

Margaret Archibald; Dinah Ayre*; Ros Coulson; Bev Ferguson; Joan Fitzpatrick; Angel Liu; Samantha Merz; Karen Millard; Eve Munns; Cheryl Thomas

Basses

Tyler Enns; Jack Foster*; Al Kvern; Aaron Lau; David Millard; Mike Millard; Michael Loo: Peter Munns

*Section Lead

Artistic Director: Edette Gagné

Collaborative Pianist: Karen Lee-Morlang Administrative Assistant: Mary Leigh Warden

Our Thanks

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Volunteer Board members: Freda Miller, President; Sarah Little, Vice President; Esther Tsang, Treasurer; Al Kvern, Secretary; Karen Millard, Mike Millard, Denise Gilbert, Arianna Cheveldave, Sarah Lamont Eve Munns, Choir Librarian

Kevin Zakresky, Music Director, St. Titus Anglican Church

Translations

(Prepared by David Millard)

Hodie, Christus natus est

Hodie, Christus natus est: Hodie, Salvator apparuit: Hodie, in terra canunt Angeli: Lætantur Archangeli: Hodie, exultant justi, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis

Deo. Alleluya.

Angelus ad Virginem

Angelus ad virginem Subintrans in conclave Virginis formidinem Demulcens, inquit, 'Ave! Ave, regina virginum; Cæli terræque Dominum Concipies et paries Intacta salutem hominum; Tu porta cæli facta, Medela criminum.'

'Quomodo conciperem Quæ virum non cognovi? Qualiter infrigerem Quod firma mente vovi?' 'Spiritus Sancti gratia Perficiet hæc omnia; Ne timeas, sed gaudeas, secura Quod casti monia Manebit in te pura Dei potentia.'

Ad hæc virgo nobilis Respondens inquit ei: 'Ancilla cum humilis Omnipotentis Dei. Tibi cælesti nuntio, tanti secreti conscio, Consentiens, et cupiens videre Factum quod audio; Parata sum parere, Dei consilio.'

Eia mater domini, Quæ pacem reddidisti Angelis et homini, Cum Christum genuisti; Tuum exora filium, Ut se nobis propitium Exhibeat, et deleat peccata; Præstans auxilium Vita frui beata Post hoc exilium.

Resonet in Laudibus

Resonet in laudibus, cum iucundis plausibus, Sion cum fidelibus: apparuit quem genuit Maria. Impleta sunt quæ prædixit Gabriel. Eia, eia. Virgo Deum genuit, quod divina voluit clementia. Alleluia. Today, Christ is born;

Today, the Saviour has appeared. Today, the Angels sing upon the earth; the Archangels rejoice. Today, the righteous leap for joy, saying: Glory to God in the highest places. Alleluia!

The angel, coming discreetly to the Virgin, calming the Virgin's fear, said 'Hail! Hail, Queen of Virgins! You will conceive and bear the Lord of Heaven and earth, remaining a virgin, for the salvation of humanity. You will be made the Gate of Heaven, the alleviation of sin.'

'How shall I conceive, who have not known a man? How can I break the vow I firmly made?' 'The grace of the Holy Spirit shall perform all this; fear not, but rejoice, confident that you will remain chaste through the power of God.'

At this the noble Virgin responded, saying to him: 'I am the humble servant of almighty God. To you, heavenly messenger, who know this great secret, I assent, and desire to see fulfilled the thing that I hear. I am ready to obey God's will.'

Ah, Mother of the Lord, who restored peace to angels and humans by bearing Christ; beseech your Son that he may show us mercy and wipe away our sins; offering help to enjoy the blessed life after this exile.

Resound in praise with a joyful noise,

O Sion, and all ye faithful, for he has appeared whom Mary bore. That which was foretold by Gabriel has been fulfilled.

Ah, how wondrous. A Virgin has given birth to God, as it was willed by divine mercy. Alleluia!

Uns ist ein Kind geboren

1. Sonata

2. Chorus

Uns ist ein Kind geboren; Ein Sohn ist uns gegeben.

3. Aria Basso

Dein Geburtstag ist erschienen, so erfordert meine Pflicht, dich, mein Jesu, zu bedienen. Doch ich Armer weiß gar nicht, was ich suche, was ich finde, welches dir zum Angebinde als ein heilig Opfer tügt, dich, o großer Gott, vergnügt.

4. Chorus

Ich will den Namen Gottes loben mit einem Liede, und will ihn hoch ehren mit Dank.

5. Aria Tenore

Jesu, dir sei Dank gesungen, Jesu, dir sei Ehr' und Ruhm! Denn das Los ist mir in allen auf das Lieblichste gefallen, du, du bist mein Eigentum.

6. Recit Alto

Immanuel! Du wollest dir gefallen lassen, daß dich mein Geist und Glaube kann umfassen; kann ich die Freude gleich so herzlich nicht entdekken, die dein Geburtstag will erwekken, wird doch mein schwaches Lallen dir durch Lob und Preis gefallen.

7. Aria Alto

Jesu, dir sei Preis gesungen, denn ich bin durch dich erlöst. Nichts betrübet das Gemüte, da mein Herz durch deine Güte überschwenglish wird getröst't.

8. Choral

Alleluia, gelobet sei Gott, singen wir all' aus unsers Herzensgrunde; denn Gott hat heut' gemacht solch' Freud' der wir vergessen soll'n zu keiner Stunde.

In Dulci Jubilo

In dulci jubilo, nun singet und seyt froh; Unsers Herzenwonne leit in præsepio; Und leuchtet als die Sonne, Matris in gremio, Alpha es et ô.

1. Sonata

2.Chorus

Unto us a child is born; To us, a son is given.

3. Aria – Bass

Your birthday has arrived, thus my duty demands that I serve you, my Jesus.

Yet, poor me—I know not at all what I might seek, what I might find: that I might present to you as a holy offering

to please you, O great God.

4. Chorus

I wish to praise God's name with a song, and honour him highly with thanksgiving.

5. Aria – Tenor

Jesus, to you may thanks be sung, Jesus, to you be honour and glory!

For the lot that has fallen to me is the most beloved thing:

that you are my own.

6. Recitative – Alto

Emmanuel! It has been your gift to allow my soul and faith to partake of you.

Likewise, I cannot suppress the heartfelt joy that your birth day arouses in me.

Oh may my feeble prattle please you with laud and praise.

7. Aria – Alto

Jesus, to you may praise be sung, for I have been redeemed by you.

Nothing shall trouble my soul

for my heart, through your mercy, will be exceedingly comforted.

8. Chorale

Alleluia. Let us sing "Praise be to God"

from the bottom of our hearts,

for today God has fashioned such joy, that we should not forget at any time.

With sweet joy, now sing and rejoice. Our heart's delight lies in a manger, And shines like the sun, laid upon his mother's breast. He is *Alpha* and *Omega*.

We Welcome Our New Collaborative Pianist Karen Lee-Morlang



An award-winning performer, educator and producer, Karen Lee-Morlang has been lauded as "funny, brainy and creative." After specializing in art song and chamber music for her post-graduate degree from the University of British Columbia, she then taught as a Sessional Lecturer at UBC while continuing her own education and performing in different parts of North America, Europe and Asia. Karen has been featured at the Vancouver International Jazz Festival, MusicFest Vancouver, the World Peace Forum, Women's Worlds Conference, the Vancouver Folk Festival and

has been broadcast on CBC Radio.

In addition to working with the Vivaldi Chamber Choir, Karen enjoys collaborating with local choirs such as the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir, BC Girls Choir, Chor Leoni Men's Choir, Enchor, Vancouver Thunderbirds and Summerchor. With her passion for reaching new audiences for classical music, Karen has also directed recital and lecture series for the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Vancouver Public Library, the UBC Main Library, and completed a three-year project with the UBC Learning Exchange in the Downtown Eastside producing and teaching the Music Appreciation 101 course. As part of her work in the DTES, Karen co-coordinated the "Night Before the Opera" events at the Carnegie Center with the Vancouver Opera.

Previously Karen also created and hosted a mini-series called "Nuts & Notes" on CBC Radio One as well as guest hosting on Westcoast Performance for CBC Radio Two. In exploring her own voice while playing piano with other singers, Karen was a founding member of the vocal groups The Lady Larks, The K Sisters and The No Sh!t Shirleys. In September 2022, Karen assumed the role of Music Director at St. Francis-in-the-Wood Church in West Vancouver, where she leads the enthusiastic Church Choir and the Coast Mountain Men's Chorus.

Karen is also committed to her role as the Artistic Director of Health Arts Society of BC, which curates and delivers several hundred professional performances annually for elders living in long-term health care and retirement communities. When not at the piano or computer, Karen takes great pleasure in pursuing other passions such as riding her motorcycle, boating, fishing, hiking, swimming, reading, sewing, fussing over her potted plants and now learning to coordinate her lower limbs in the form of tap dancing.



2024-2025 Season



Monday, March 31, 2025 – 8PM - Ein Deutches Requiem - Brahms German Requiem In collaboration with The Richmond Orchestra and Choral Association (ROCA) The Orpheum Theatre

Made possible by a generous grant from Vancouver Civic Theatres







Sunday, June 22, 2025 – 3PM – Shall We Dance? Pacific Spirit United Church

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