



the
Annex
singers

SONG
FLIGHT
VIVALDI

**SATURDAY,
JUNE 4, 2022 AT
7:30 PM**

**GRACE CHURCH ON-THE-HILL
300 LONSDALE ROAD**

the
Annex
singers

presents

Songflight

A celebration of spring



Our home in the heart of Toronto has for thousands of years been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and, most recently, the Mississauga people of the New Credit First Nation. We are thankful for the opportunity to live — and to sing — on this land.

Programme

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

Dolly Parton,
arr. Craig Hella Johnson

with Melanie Conly, soprano

☞ Poem: “**Today**”

Billy Collins

Cheryl MacInnis Stenson, actor



Gloria in D Major, RV 589

Antonio Vivaldi

I. Gloria in excelsis

II. Et in terra pax

III. Laudamus te

IV. Gratias agimus tibi

V. Propter magnam gloriam

VI. Domine Deus

VII. Domine Fili unigenite

VIII. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei

IX. Qui tollis peccata mundi

X. Qui sedes ad dexteram

XI. Quoniam tu solus sanctus

XII. Cum Sancto Spiritu

Melanie Conly, soprano

Lyndsay Promane, mezzo-soprano

∞ Poem: **“The Enkindled Spring”** D. H Lawrence

First Sparrow of Spring (premiere) Maria Case

∞ Poem: **“The Trees”** Philip Larkin

Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One Healey Willan

Now is the Month of Maying Thomas Morley

Younger Than Springtime Richard Rodgers
Joshua Clemenger, tenor

∞ Poem: **“Summer is the Season of Motion”** Henry Beston

Now Welcome Summer (premiere) Maria Case
Chamber Ensemble

Poem: **“Nothing Gold Can Stay”** Robert Frost

Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer’s Day? Nils Lindberg

∞ Poem: **“[in Just-]”** e. e. cummings

Here Comes the Sun Beatles, arr. Alan Billingsley

∞ Poem: from **“The Book of Time”** Mary Oliver

How Can I Keep from Singing? Trad., arr. Sarah Quartel

Texts and Translations

Light of a Clear Blue Morning

(Dolly Parton)

It's been a long dark night
And I've been a waiting for the morning.
It's been a long hard fight,
But I see a brand new day a-dawning.
I've been looking for the sunshine
'Cause I ain't seen it in so long.
Everything's gonna work out fine.
Everything's gonna be all right,
It's gonna be okay.

I can see the light of a clear blue morning.
I can see the light of a brand-new day.
I can see the light of a clear blue morning.
Everything's gonna be all right,
It's gonna be okay.

Gloria

(from the Mass Ordinary, based on Luke 2:14)

- | | |
|--|---|
| I. Gloria in excelsis Deo; | <i>Glory to God on high;</i> |
| II. Et in terra pax hominibus
bonae voluntatis, | <i>And on earth peace to men
of good will.</i> |
| III. Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te. | <i>We praise Thee, we bless Thee,
We adore Thee, we glorify Thee.</i> |
| IV. Gratias agimus tibi | <i>We give thanks to Thee</i> |
| V. Propter magnam gloriam
tuam. | <i>For Thy great glory.</i> |
| VI. Domine Deus, Rex coelestis
Deus Pater omnipotens; | <i>Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father almighty;</i> |

VII. Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe;	<i>Lord the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;</i>
VIII. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, Qui tollis peccata mundi miserere nobis.	<i>Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.</i>
IX. Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.	<i>Who takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.</i>
X. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.	<i>Who sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us.</i>
XI. Quoniam tu solus sanctus, Tu solus Dominus, Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.	<i>For Thou alone art holy. Thou alone art the Lord. Thou alone are most high, Jesus Christ.</i>
XII. Cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.	<i>With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.</i>

First Sparrow of Spring

(Henry David Thoreau, adapted from *Walden*)

First sparrow of spring!

The year beginning with younger hope than ever!

Faint silvery warblings heard o'er the bare fields —

blue-bird and song-sparrow and red-wing —

last flakes of winter as they fell.

The grass flames up on the hills like a spring fire —

as if earth sent forth an inward heat to greet the returning sun;

not yellow but green is the colour of its flame.

What at such a time are histories, chronicles, traditions,

and all written revelations?

First sparrow of spring!

Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One

(Song of Solomon 2:10b–12a)

Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.
For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear upon the earth.
The time of the singing of birds is come.
Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Now is the Month of Maying

(attributed to Thomas Morley)

Now is the month of maying,
When merry lads are playing, fa la la...
Each with his bonny lass
Upon the greeny grass. Fa la.

The Spring, clad all in gladness,
Doth laugh at Winter's sadness, fa la la...
And to the bagpipe's sound
The nymphs tread out their ground. Fa la

Fie then! why sit we musing,
Youth's sweet delight refusing? Fa la.
Say dainty nymphs, and speak,
Shall we play barley-break? Fa la.

Younger than Springtime

(Oscar Hammerstein & Richard Rodgers)

I touch your hand
And my arms grow strong,
Like a pair of birds
That burst with song.

My eyes look down
At your lovely face,
And I hold a world
In my embrace.

Younger than springtime are you.
Softer than starlight are you;
Warmer than winds of June
Are the gentle lips you gave me.

Gayer than laughter are you.
Sweeter than music are you;
Angel and lover, heaven and earth
Are you to me.

And when your youth and joy invade my arms
And fill my heart as now they do,
Then...

Younger than springtime am I,
Gayer than laughter am I,
Angel and lover, heaven and earth,
Am I with you!

Now Welcome Summer

(Geoffrey Chaucer, adapted from *The Parliament of Fowls*)

Now welcome, summer, with thy sun soft,
The winter's tempest you do shake;
Its long black nights your beams do break.
Saint Valentine throned high aloft,
Thus sing the small birds for your sake:

Now welcome, summer, with thy sun soft,
The winter's tempest you do shake;
Good cause have they to glad them oft,
His own true-love each bird will take;
Blithe may they sing when they awake.

Now welcome, summer, with thy sun soft,
The winter's tempest you do shake;
Its long black nights your beams do break.

Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?

(William Shakespeare, Sonnet XVIII)

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date;
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:
 So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
 So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

Here Comes the Sun

(George Harrison)

Here comes the sun, here comes the sun,
And I say, It's all right.

Little darling, it's been a long, cold lonely winter.
Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here.
Here comes ...

Little darling, the smiles returning to the faces,
Little darling, it seems like years since it's been here.
Here comes ...

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes ...

Little darling, I feel that ice is slowly melting.
Little darling, it seems like years since it's been clear.
Here comes the sun, here comes the sun,
And I say, It's all right.

How Can I Keep from Singing?

(Robert Lowry)

My life flows on in endless song
above earth's lamentations;
I hear the real, though far-off tune
that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear its music ringing.
It sounds an echo in my soul;
how can I keep from singing?

While though the tempest loudly roars,
I hear the truth, it liveth.
And though the darkness 'round me close,
songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love is lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin;
I see the blue above it,
and day by day this pathway smooths
since first I learned to love it.
The peace of love makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing;
All things are mine in love and joy!
How can I keep from singing?

Biographies



Artistic Director **Maria Case** is a highly regarded artist and educator in Toronto's music community, working as a pianist, singer, choral conductor and composer. Maria maintains a busy private studio and is active as an examiner, adjudicator and lecturer on piano and theory pedagogy and musicianship for the Royal Conservatory, where she served as Chief Examiner of Theoretical Subjects from 2006 to 2013. She is co-author of the nine-volume *Celebrate Theory* series, and has designed curriculum for theory, piano and musicianship. Maria has been the Artistic Director of The Annex Singers since 2005, leading the choir with dynamic and imaginative programming. She is also the Music Director of Glebe Road United Church in Toronto.

The majority of Maria's compositions celebrate the voice and are inspired by texts from a wide range of traditions. Recent works include choral pieces *In Winter*, *O Living Flame* and *Westron Wind*, and song cycles *Nightsongs*, *Into Flight*, *Songs of the Seasons* and *The Slow Hand of Time*. Maria holds ARCT Performance Diplomas in Piano and Voice, as well as a Bachelor of Music in Composition from the University of Toronto. Other studies include English literature, conducting, and jazz at the Berklee College of Music.



Anne Lee, accompanist with The Annex Singers since 2011, began piano studies at a young age in Vancouver after an exhaustive search for a teacher willing to take on a pint-sized aspiring pianist with too-small hands. Her musical roots flourished through her school years as she explored a diverse portfolio of instruments, including clarinet, bassoon and saxophone. She studied English literature and Music Performance at Queen's University and, along with her academic studies, participated in various musical ensembles as a chorister, accompanist and instrumentalist. She has studied with notable music educators such as Edward Parker, Gordon Craig and Dr. Christopher Foley. Anne is valued for her sensitive artistry and profound understanding of choral collaboration. Her intuitive and supportive musicality has been an asset in her accompanying and creative collaborations with students, soloists, and various organizations and ensembles.



Lauded for her “passion and charm” (*Now Magazine*) and “sweet voice delivery” (*Toronto Star*), soprano **Melanie Conly** is acclaimed for her distinctive voice and musical understanding. She originally trained in musical theatre and later classically, cultivating a diverse skill set that serves her wide range of work. An experienced chamber

musician and recitalist, she often solos with choirs and orchestras and is frequently sought out for her compelling performances of new music. She has performed in many series and festivals across Canada and creates and performs unique themed concerts in a wide range of musical styles. Alongside performing, Melanie maintains a voice and piano studio in Toronto. She was the singer for the Frederick Harris Music recordings for the Royal Conservatory Vocal Series 2012 and 2019 editions. In the summer of 2019, she was a presenter and adjudicator at the Royal Conservatory of Music Summit in Toronto, and in 2020 became a member of the Royal Conservatory College of Examiners. She is a choral clinician, certified yoga instructor for children and adults, and is currently cultivating workshops that explore tools for performance, creativity and life — a synthesis of her passions as a teacher, performer, yogi, and meditation practitioner. She also enjoys baking adventures with children.



Praised for “a genuine and deeply satisfying sound” (*The WholeNote*), mezzo-soprano **Lyndsay Promane** is known as a “top-notch performer” (*Opera Canada*) and an artist with “an arresting presence on the opera stage and a thoughtful concert artist” (*Schmopera*). Lyndsay is a Dora Mavor Moore Award-nominated artist for

Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in 2020, the 2018 winner of the Symphony on the Bay Young Artist Competition, and a recipient of the Art Song Foundation of Canada Scholarship. Opera highlights include *TAP:EX Augmented Opera* with Tapestry Opera, Sokolovic’s *Love Songs* (Resonant Frequencies, Los Angeles), Baba of Menotti’s *The Medium* (UofT Opera), and Endimione in Cavalli’s *La Calisto* (COSI), among others. On the concert stage, Lyndsay most recently appeared as a soloist in Schoenberg’s *Pierrot Lunaire*, Pergolesi’s *Stabat Mater*, Beethoven’s *Mass in C major*, and Handel’s *Messiah*. Lyndsay has performed several world premieres including

Queen of Darkness by Matthew-John Knights and premieres for voice and chamber orchestra at Orford Musique under the direction of Veronique Lacroix. Lyndsay has been a member of the Canadian Opera Company Chorus since the 2018/2019 season and is an alumna of the University of Toronto Faculty of Music, UofT Opera, and the Orpheus Choir of Toronto Sidgwick Scholarship Program. www.lyndsaypromane.com



Actor **Cheryl MacInnis Stenson** has performed on stages across Canada and in various television series, movies and commercials. Her diverse roles have ranged from comedy to drama and musicals, and include a 2017 performance as narrator in The Annex Singers' acclaimed choral drama *December Diaries*. Through her company SaysYou!, Cheryl

employs actors' training tools to help professionals in any arena gain greater skill and confidence in public speaking. A long-time member of Glebe Road United Church, over the years Cheryl stepped into the pulpit many times, discovering a passion for creating sermons and liturgy. She recently completed the Licensed Lay Worship Leader course with the United Church of Canada and has since filled her Sundays serving in various churches across Toronto.



Valeria Kondrashov is a Russian-born mezzo-soprano who studied voice performance at the State Music College in Russia, where she obtained a degree in teaching voice and choral conducting. She has over 30 years of teaching experience and choral performance both in Canada and Russia. Since 2007 Valeria has performed as soloist and

choral singer with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, Mendelssohn Singers, and Elora Festival Singers. She has also participated in several competitions, such as the McGill Conservatory of Music "Festival de chant" in Montréal, where she received a first prize and the award for "the most accomplished candidate." In February 2009 she sang the title role in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* with the Toronto Opera Repertoire. She also performed the role of Third Spirit in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* with the Brampton Lyric Opera and Opera Kitchener. Valeria is presently an alto soloist at Metropolitan United Church. She joined the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir in 2010.



Tenor **Joshua Clemenger** began his training in the Theatre Aquarius Performing Arts Programme in Hamilton, Ontario, where he studied with Tom Oliver. He then earned a bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance with Torin Chiles at the University of Western Ontario. After few years of teaching abroad, he returned to Toronto to earn a master's degree in

Opera at The University of Toronto, studying with Lorna Macdonald. Recent opera credits include L'abete in Opera in Concert's *Adriana*, Alfredo in Summer Opera Lyric Theatre's production of *La Traviata*, Fatty in *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* with Opera in Concert, Count Belfiore in *La Finta Giardiniera* with UofT Opéra, Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* at La Musica Lirica, and TrypTych's production of *H.M.S. Parliament* in Kenora. He can be seen this month in concert with the Toronto Choral Society, The Annex Singers, and in a tribute to Mario Lanza at The Columbus Centre.



Bass lead **Nicholas Borg** has been praised as "an engaging visual and vocal actor" (*Opera Canada*) with a "warm, sonorous baritone" (*Stage Door Toronto*). Nicholas looks forward to making his debut as Dandini in *La Cenerentola* with Manitoba Opera and performing the role of Alexander Graham Bell in *The Bells of Baddeck* at the Alexander

Graham Bell National Historic Site in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. He recently performed as Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte* with Brott Opera and was a participant in the Manitoba Opera Digital Emerging Artist Program. He was a member of the Yulanda M. Faris Young Artist Program at Vancouver Opera for the 2019/2020 season, where he performed the roles of Barone Douphol in *La traviata* and Fiorello in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and was the recipient of the Kurt Sickert Award from the Vancouver Opera Foundation. Nicholas graduated with a Master of Music degree from the University of Toronto Opera, under the tutelage of renowned soprano Wendy Nielsen, and he holds a Bachelor of Music degree from McGill University. Nicholas is also the Managing Director of the Amadeus Choir of Greater Toronto. He has worked for Pacific Opera Victoria and Opera InReach as a digital content creator and video editor.

The Annex Singers

Sopranos

Rachel Ariss*	Carol Hensley	Carolyn Sealfon
Heather Campbell	Nora Klemencic	Hillary Sunberg
Tessa Cernik*	Elizabeth Koester*	Ghislaine Taylor
Melanie Conly*	Sally McBeth	
Victoria Fisher*	Lisa Saldanha	

Altos

Julie Brill	Barbara Leonard*	Ann Rosenfield
Diane Faught	Gail Littlejohn	Luba Tichonova*
Valeria Kondrashov ✧*	Maria Laura Mosco	Ruth Wahl*
Anne Lee*	Patricia Rios*	Andrea Whitehead

Tenors

Alex Chan	Charles Im	Andrea Slane*
Joshua Clemenger ✧*	Gerald Martindale	
Brian Gottheil	Robert Metcalfe	

Basses

Alan Ackerman	Jim Mayor	John Warden
Nicholas Borg ✧	Don Melady	Tim Watson
Rizwan Dar	Darryl Wadsworth	

✧ **Section lead**

* **Chamber ensemble**

Chamber Orchestra

Violin I: Tricia Ahern

Violin II: Suhashini Arulanandam

Viola: Matt Antal

Cello: Laura Jones

Bass: Calum MacLeod

Oboe: Gillian Howard

Trumpet: Michael Fedyshyn

Organ: Thomas Fitches

Concert credits

For their invaluable assistance with tonight's
concert, we wish to thank

Dimana Kolarova, graphic designer

Kevin Yue, stage producer

Christopher Leonard, Grace Church on-the-Hill

The Printing House, 130 Adelaide St W

&

our wonderful team of concert volunteers:

Denice Bartolome

Rachel Lin

Evren Bulong

Aidan Mun

Julienne Bulong

Jasmine Noone

Danielle Cuccurullo

Adriel Ozuna

Delvin Han

Meliza Grace Pascual

Devaunae Jones

Emma Rusu

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Max Li



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the
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2021-2022

Celebrating
43 years
of singing!

Thank you for your support!

We are deeply grateful to our choral community for the tremendous support that we have received over the past two years. As we navigated the hitherto uncharted skies of online rehearsals and virtual concerts, your enthusiasm and generosity helped to keep our hearts singing and our spirits soaring!

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals for their generous support of the choir this season.

Programme Sponsors

Dr. Martin Eidinger & Mrs. Leona Eidinger
All That Remains concert, November 14, 2021

Don Melady
Art Song Master Class, January-March 2022

Season Sponsors

Jim Mayor
Ruth Wahl

Concert Donors

Last, but not least, we thank our audiences, who have attended our online concerts from over 130 locations across North America and beyond. We are especially grateful to the more than 350 concert goers who added donations to their registrations to help support the choir during this challenging time. We are glad to be singing together again and look forward to sharing our love of music with you, both in person and online.



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