



Maria Case, Artistic Director

"Yes, Virginia"

December 18, 2021 – January 9, 2022



Programme

Deck the Halls — traditional, arr. Audrey Snyder
The Annex Singers

"It was beginning winter" — Theodore Roethke, 1948
Debra McGrath

The Winter's Night — Nicholas Myers
The Annex Singers

Reading from *South* — Ernest Shackleton, 1919
Colin Mochrie

Reading from "The Waste Land" — T.S. Eliot, 1922
Debra McGrath

Thou Shalt Know Him — Mark Sirett
Annex Chamber Choir

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus" — Francis Pharcellus Church, 1897
Debra McGrath and Colin Mochrie

Pure Imagination — Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley
Melanie Conly, soprano • Maria Case, piano

What is This Lovely Fragrance? — 17th C French carol, arr. Healey Willan
The Annex Singers with Joshua Clemenger, tenor

What Cheer — William Walton
Annex Chamber Choir

Credits

Artistic Director..... Maria Case
Readers Debra McGrath, Colin Mochrie
Collaborative Pianist Anne Lee
Soprano soloist Melanie Conly
Tenor soloist..... Joshua Clemenger
The Annex Singers:

Soprano

Rachel Ariss*, Tessa Cernik*, Melanie Conly*, Joanne Eidinger*, Victoria Fisher*,
Carol Hensley, Nora Klemencic, Elizabeth Koester*, Julia Lewis*, Ghislaine Taylor

Alto

Diane Faught, Tanya Gopaul*, Sheila Goulet, Kirsten Jones Janack*, Anne Lee*,
Barbara Leonard*, Gail Littlejohn, Laura Murray, Patricia Rios*, Maggie Rogow,
Luba Tichonova*, Ruth Wahl

Tenor

Joshua Clemenger*, Don Melady*, Robert Metcalfe*, Andrea Slane*

Bass

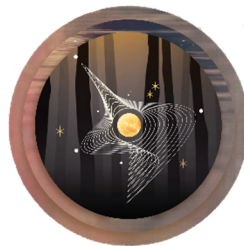
Alan Ackerman*, Michael Bunce, Rizwan Dar, Peter Kamphuis*, Alex Mathews*,
Jim Mayor, Darryl Wadsworth*, John Warden

*Annex Chamber Choir

Sound Engineer..... Patric McGroarty
Videographers..... Patric McGroarty, Pat Rideout, Micah Sky
Film Editor..... Patric McGroarty
Script Maria Case
Graphic Artist..... Dimana Kolarova

Special thanks to:

Grace Church on-the-Hill, Toronto
Glebe Road United Church, Toronto



**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.**

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. She maintains a busy private studio and is active as an examiner and lecturer on piano and theory pedagogy for the Royal Conservatory of Music. She has led The Annex Singers since 2005 with dynamic and imaginative programming, and is also Music Director at Glebe Road United Church in Toronto. The majority of Maria's compositions celebrate the voice.



Actress, improvisational comedian, and writer **Debra McGrath** began her professional career in Toronto's Second City improv group and is well-known for her many roles in Canadian film and television, including *Wind at My Back*, *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, and CBC's *Getting Along Famously*, which she co-wrote, co-produced and co-starred in with her husband, Colin Mochrie. She has lent her voice to a variety of characters in animated films and was a founding member of the comedy troupe Women Fully Clothed.



Colin Mochrie is a writer, actor and improvisational comedian who has appeared in dozens of television series and films. A veteran of Toronto's Second City, he is best known for his work in the British and US comedy improv programme *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* With his wife, Debra McGrath, Mochrie co-wrote, co-produced and co-starred in the Canadian sitcoms *Getting Along Famously* and *She's the Mayor*. He is the recipient of several Canadian Comedy Awards and a Gemini Award, among others.



Anne Lee, collaborative pianist for The Annex Singers since 2011, began piano studies at a young age in Vancouver. She studied English literature and Music Performance at Queen's University, participating in various musical ensembles as a chorister, accompanist and instrumentalist. Anne is especially valued for her sensitive artistry and profound understanding of choral collaboration.



Soprano **Melanie Conly** is acclaimed for her distinctive voice and musical understanding. An experienced chamber musician and recitalist, she often performs as a soloist with orchestras and choirs and is frequently sought out for her compelling performances of new music. Melanie maintains a voice and piano studio in Toronto and has developed a series of workshops called "Empower Your Essence" that explore tools for performance, creativity and life.



Tenor **Joshua Clemenger** holds a bachelor's degree in Performance from Western University (London, Ontario) and has recently completed a master's degree in Opera at the University of Toronto. He currently performs in operas and concerts across southern Ontario. A compelling performer, comfortable with diverse styles, he is also an experienced lead chorister and an inspiring teacher of English, voice, piano and ukulele.