



# bridges



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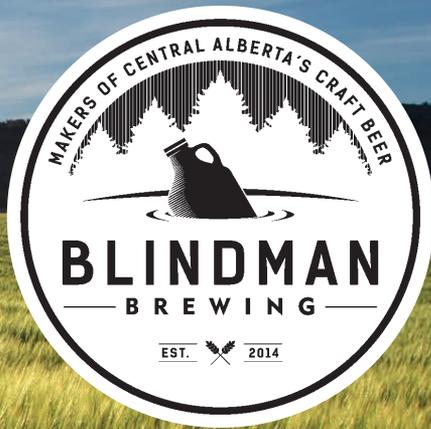
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# Program

## Otche Nash

Roman Hurko (b. 1962) ♣

## Compassio

David Archer (b. 1985) ♣

## Deux/Two Solitudes †

Marie-Claire Saindon (b. 1984) ♣

## Gaze upon the trees †

Andrew Balfour (b. 1967) ♣

## Songbird

Sarah Quartel (b. 1982) ♣

## Loveliest of Trees

Timothy Corlis (b. 1972) ♣

## All the love that lies beneath †

Edward Enman (b. 1987) ♣

## You Speak Violets †

Nicholas Ryan Kelly (b. 1986) ♣

## Da Pacem Domine

Peter-Anthony Togni (b. 1959) ♣

## Anthem for a doomed youth

Andrew Balfour (b. 1967) ♣

## Hear My Prayer (After Purcell)

Dorothy Chang (b. 1970) ♣

## hope, faith, life, love...

from *Three Songs of Faith*

Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

## The Letter

from *I am like many*

Stuart Beatch (b. 1991) ♣

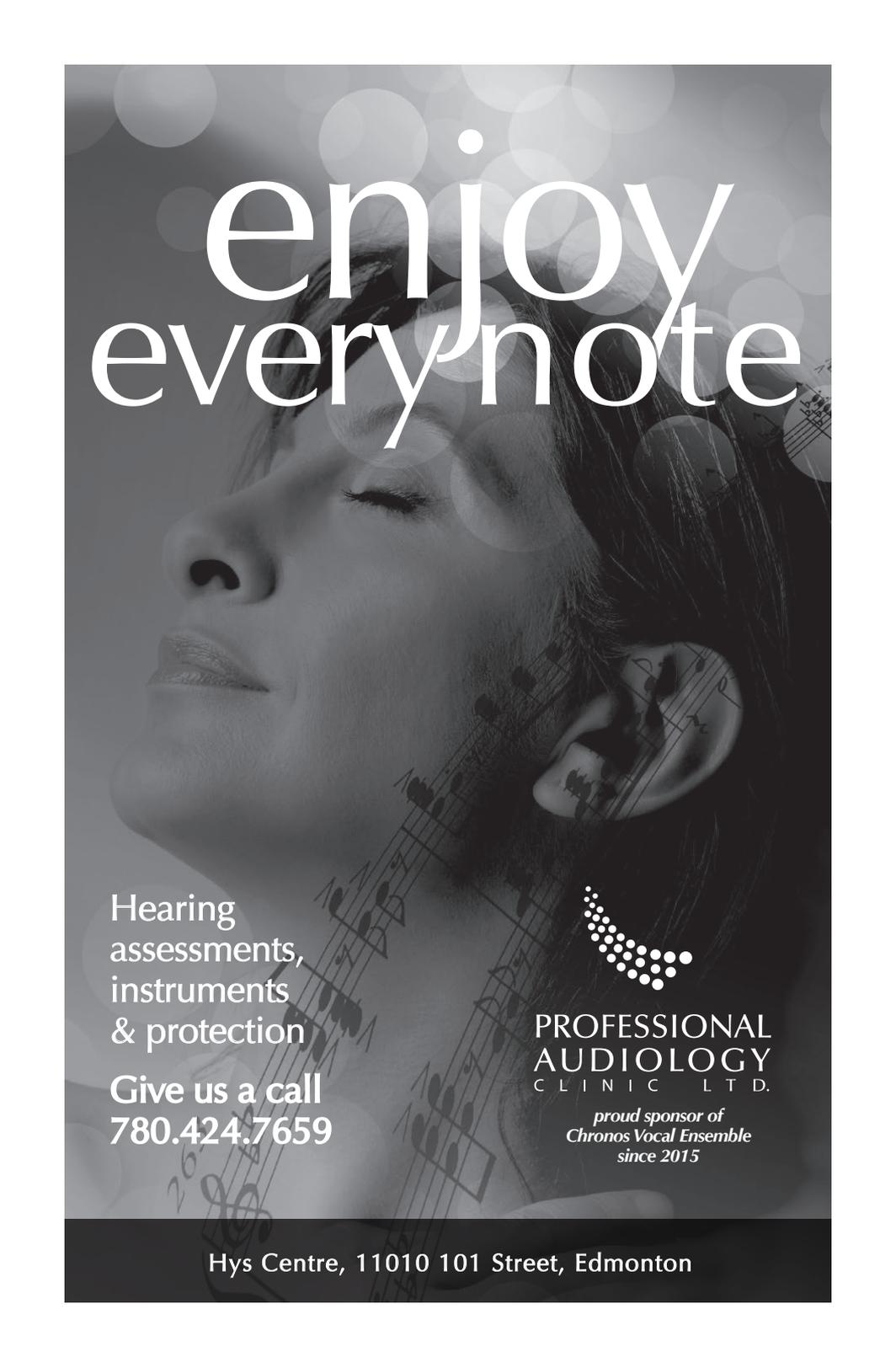
## Vision Chant

Andrew Balfour (b. 1967) ♣

intermission

† Premiere

♣ Canadian Composer



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# Welcome to Bridges

Our title points at bringing people together, connecting disparate things, and overcoming divides.

With three commissions planned (but not yet written) for this concert as we announced the season, I was committed to assembling a program complementing these works. By early 2022 we had four new pieces in hand: the commissions from Andrew Balfour, Nicholas Ryan Kelly, and Marie-Claire Saindon, as well as our 2021 competition-winner by Edward Enman. By that time, we foresaw circumstances allowing for the preparation of complex unaccompanied music. We also felt compelled to respond to hurt and suffering in the world, and express hope for better future times. The thematic strains that have developed include empathy and understanding, prayer (especially in a time of pain/war), and shared humanity.

We open with Ukrainian-Canadian composer Roman Hurko's setting of *Otche Nash*, the "Our Father" (or Lord's Prayer) as set in Ukrainian for the Divine Liturgy, as an acknowledgement of the violence afflicting that part of the world.

David Archer's *Compassio* reflects on "compassion", asking, as David writes, "What does it mean for you to suffer with someone? One idea...is that suffering with another person can bring its own kind of joy." *Of Deux/Two Solitudes*, composer Marie-Claire Saindon writes that her music came from "a desire to express the miscommunication between two isolated communities of the same nation... [and] the desire to be understood, and to understand the other."

Desire for understanding is explored throughout the first half of the program. In the music of Nick Kelly, Tim Corlis, and Edward Enman, this understanding is sought and expressed across differences of age. *Loveliest of Trees* is dedicated by the composer to "a dear friend and mentor who passed away tragically in 2010 of ALS". In his score notes, Tim remembers walks in the woods, "from the garden plot, down on to the sawmill by the pond." This theme of joy in nature, along with finding joy in something unfamiliar or unexpected, is also reflected in both *Songbird* (Quartel) and *Gaze upon the trees* (Balfour). Edward Enman's *All the love that lies beneath* sets the composer's own words, in a piece taken from a trilogy inspired by lullabies sung to his daughter. *You Speak Violets* sets a text from a poetry volume entitled *Climbing Shadows*, "inspired by a class of kindergarten children whom poet and playwright Shannon Bramer came to know over the course of a school year." In *Violets*, the poet describes with understanding how an observed child expresses their emotions.

The second half opens with a return to themes of conflict and prayer, with Peter Togni's *Da Pacem Domine*, Dorothy Chang's *Hear My Prayer* (after Purcell), and Andrew Balfour's *Anthem for a doomed youth*. The latter is an excerpt from Andrew's larger work *Notinikew (Going to War)*, which tells the stories of Indigenous soldiers in various conflicts. This is also a "bridge" to next season—we will present the second live performance of this complete work in Edmonton in November, in an expanded version in collaboration with the composer and a number of guest artists.

When I first played Stuart Beatch's *The Letter*, I was struck by its heartfelt plea for empathy and acceptance (in this case for LGBT people), and its poignant statement, "I am like many." I also immediately thought of Whitacre's *Hope, faith, life love*, with which it shares a harmonic sound-world and thematic references to universal values. We've paired these two selections as a set that I find particularly compelling.

We conclude the program with Andrew Balfour's *Vision Chant*, which was also featured on our program *Breathe* in November 2021. The music's representation of a transformation from fear to hope seems a fitting end to our concert, and our season. It also concludes a wonderful week spent with the composer here with us in Edmonton.

Many thanks to all the audience members, donors, funders, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters who have helped make the 2021-2022 Season a success.

Thanks for being here, and be well until we see each other again!

  
**Jordan Van Biert**  
Founder & Conductor,  
Chronos Vocal Ensemble

## Get extended program notes for this performance

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Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera for a link to extended program notes to music on today's program

or visit

<https://chronosvocalensemble.com/bridges-extended-program-notes/>

The logo for Chronos Vocal Ensemble features a stylized 'C' composed of three concentric, curved lines. To the right of this symbol, the word 'CHRONOS' is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. Below 'CHRONOS', the words 'vocal ensemble' are written in a smaller, lowercase, black, sans-serif font.

# CHRONOS

vocal ensemble

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A “rapidly rising star in the Canadian choral scene” (Anacrusis), Chronos Vocal Ensemble was founded in 2013 by Jordan Van Biert, and since its inception has built a reputation for innovation and excellence. Through a process of collaborative learning and careful preparation, the choir delivers an exceptional choral music experience that elevates the spirit and connects a community of music lovers in Edmonton and beyond.

The ensemble has delighted audiences through its subscription seasons of concerts in Edmonton, on tours of four Canadian provinces, and at conferences of Choir Alberta, Choral Canada and the American Choral Directors’ Association. Tracks from the choir’s three albums are regularly featured on CBC’s Choral Concert. Collaborators have included the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Alberta Baroque Ensemble, Vocal Alchemy, Spiritus Chamber Choir (Calgary), and Edmonton Youth Choir.

In 2015 Chronos was awarded the Healey Willan Grand Prize in the National Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs, and in 2016 given a performance award in Edmonton’s Salute to Excellence. In March 2020, the choir undertook its first international tour in the Pacific Northwest USA. During the pandemic, Chronos has engaged in a series of innovative digital projects to connect with audiences, and continues to engage in commissioning projects and its annual composition competition. Thanks to the support of generous donors, the ensemble has continued to thrive.



## **Jordan Van Biert** conductor

Over the past decade, Jordan has emerged as a respected choral leader and organization builder, uniting singers in the common goal of creating rich musical experiences – for themselves, for each other, and for audiences. Jordan is an experienced conductor, a passionate teacher, and an accomplished singer.

Jordan founded Chronos Vocal Ensemble in 2013 to pursue excellence in choral performance with a non-professional ensemble. His work with the choir has gained wide recognition: he has been recognized with a nomination as Emerging Artist in Edmonton’s Mayor’s Celebration of the Arts, and in 2016 received the Con Spirito award from Choir Alberta, for “spirit, dedication, and commitment to choral music in the Province of Alberta.”

Jordan also conducts the community chorus Vocal Alchemy, and the daytime choir called Ante Meridiem. As an educator he has worked with choirs at Concordia High School, Concordia University of Edmonton, and the University of Alberta. He serves as workshop leader, adjudicator, and organizational consultant. During the pandemic he has enjoyed learning more about audio and video editing, and continued to explore interests in permaculture gardening, sustainable building practices, and the frustrating game of golf.

More at [jordanvanbiert.com](http://jordanvanbiert.com)



## **Andrew Balfour** composer

Of Cree descent, Andrew Balfour is an innovative composer/conductor/singer/sound designer with a large body of choral, instrumental, electro-acoustic and orchestral works. Andrew's works have been performed and/or broadcast locally, nationally and internationally. He has been commissioned by the Winnipeg, Regina and Toronto Symphony Orchestras, Ensemble Caprice, Groundswell, the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra, the Winnipeg Singers, the Kingston Chamber Choir, Roomful of Teeth, Tafelmusik, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, Luminous Voices, and Chronos Vocal Ensemble, among others. Andrew is also the founder and Artistic Director of the innovative vocal group Dead of Winter (formerly Camerata Nova), now in its 25th year of offering a concert series in Winnipeg. With Dead of Winter, Andrew specializes in creating "concept concerts," many with Indigenous subject matter (Wa Wa Tey Wak [Northern Lights], Medieval Inuit, Fallen). These innovative offerings explore a theme through an eclectic array of music, including new works, arrangements and inter-genre and interdisciplinary collaborations.

Andrew has become increasingly passionate about music education and outreach, particularly on northern reserves and inner-city Winnipeg schools where he has worked on behalf of the National Arts Centre, Dead of Winter, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and various Winnipeg school divisions. Andrew was Curator and Composer-in-Residence of the WSO's inaugural Indigenous Festival. In 2017, he was awarded a Gold Medal by the Senate of Canada for his contribution to Canada's Indigenous and music communities.

Andrew Balfour's music was first featured by Chronos in performances in 2018 and the subsequent recording *Fresh: New Music From Canada* included his "Ambe". This work has since been included in performances by Chronos on tours in Canada and the USA, and is published by Cypress Music. This season we have continued to develop our relationship with Andrew, presenting more of his music, and we look forward to giving the Edmonton premiere of his *Notinikew (Going to War)* in the 2022-23 Season. This has been Andrew's second trip to Edmonton to work with the choir.



**Marie-Claire Saindon** is a Franco-Ontarian composer based in Montréal. She is composer-in-residence for Choeur Adleisia, runs creative choral/vocal workshops for youth and adults, and enjoys teaching Irish fiddle. She began creating in high school, where she wrote and produced her first musical. Her other collaborative experiences span from scoring films, to accompanying dancers, to fiddling in a team of folk musicians on a historical steam train. She currently writes choral commissions and creates film scores for filmmaker Viveka Melki.

Recipient of multiple composition prizes (such as the SOCAN Young Composers' National Award in the vocal category, 2013, and the Ruth Watson Henderson Choral Composition Competition, 2018), her choral works are published with Boosey & Hawkes, Cypress Choral Music, Hal Leonard Choral, Earthsongs Choral Music, and Alliance Music Publications.

Marie-Claire holds a BMus: Composition from the Schulich School of Music (McGill) and an MMus: Composition - Film and Multimedia music from Université de Montréal.

## Volunteering's never sounded so good!

We're always looking for help with concerts and all kinds of other things—including our next casino in December!

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**Nicholas Ryan Kelly** has been commended by the Vancouver Sun for his "sophisticated work of such immediate, glittery appeal" and called "a rising star in the constellation of Canadian composers" by Oregon Arts Watch. Nicholas Ryan Kelly writes choral, wind ensemble, and chamber music infused with a sense of cinematic drama.

His choral compositions have been commissioned, performed, or released on CD by many of Canada's top choirs. He also is the recipient of nearly 20 national and international awards for wind band or choral writing, including the Edwin Fissinger Choral Composition Prize, the Howard Cable Prize from the Canadian Band Association, and the Diane Loomer Award from Choral Canada.

Nick studied music composition at Ithaca College in New York (B.Mus) and the University of British Columbia in Vancouver (M.Mus). He lives in BC's beautiful Okanagan Valley, where he explores the wilderness with his family and sometimes plays simulation computer games.



**Edward Enman** is a pianist and composer whose music warmly embraces storytelling, multimedia, collaboration, and innovative performance experiences.

Edward's compositions have been premiered and performed around the world and he has recently held residencies with the Amadeus Choir of Greater Toronto, Labo Montréal, Westben Performer-Composer Residency, 1:2:1 Intensive, and a commission project with the SHHH!! Ensemble.

Edward's debut EP "Refuge", released in 2021, explores the weaving of text with instrumental music, as well as the dynamic energy of improvisation. His first full-length album of original music, funded by FACTOR Canada, will feature works for piano duo and piano/cello and will be released in the fall of 2022.

Dr. Enman holds degrees in solo piano performance from the University of Montréal (DMus), University of Ottawa (MMus), and Acadia University (BM). He is currently based with his family in Montréal, Canada as a pianist, composer, collaborative musician, and teacher.

 **Vocal Alchemy**  
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# Texts

## Otche Nash

---

**Text: Our Father, from The Divine Liturgy  
of St. John Chrysostom**

Отче наш, Ти що єси на небесах, Нехай святиться Ім'я Твоє. Нехай прийде Царство Твоє, нехай буде воля Твоя Як на небі, так і на землі. Хліб наш насущний дай нам днесь. І прости нам довги наші як і ми прощаємо довжникам нашим І не введи нас у спокусу, але ізбави нас від лукавого. Амінь	<i>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.</i>
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## Compassio

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**Text in Latin**

Compassio    *Compassion*

## Deux/Two Solitudes

---

Text: Christine ML Lee

Translation: Keltie Robertson

When we collide,  
we crumble as waves do against  
sand and seafoam.

You, ocean whisper.

Me, earth hush.

We are twin entities  
with erosion  
trashing lines between us.

We crash,  
sea salt cleaving sea salt.

*Quand nous nous déferlons,  
nous nous émiettons comme vagues sur  
écume et sable.*

*Toi, murmure d'océan.*

*Moi, silence du sol.*

*Nous sommes entitées jumelles,  
entre lesquelles l'érosion  
creuse ses sillons.*

*Nous déferlons l'un sur l'autre,  
sel de mer clivant sel de mer.*

We are ocean meeting land:  
sea edges and waterfront soil.  
Distance measures our voices in echoes  
and dims our worlds.

*Nous sommes océan qui rencontre terre:  
lisières de mer et sol riverain.*

*La distance mesure nos voix en échos  
et atténue nos mots.*

I want to meet you  
like a shore  
meets another shore,  
side by side,  
lullabied by the same songs,  
the same sun.

To be an opened beach,  
a united coast.

To find and be found.

*Je veux aller à ta rencontre,*

*comme une rive*

*vers une autre rive,*

*côte à côte,*

*bercées par les mêmes chansons,*

*le même soleil.*

*Être une plage épanouie,*

*un littoral uni.*

*Trouver et être trouvé.*



## Gaze upon the trees

---

**Text: Duke Redbird (b. 1939) from "Waterfall in Spring", additional text in Ojibway**

Love is like a waterfall	Mitigoog (trees)
That happens in the spring	
When the snow has melted in the	And you find a wisp of loveliness
mountains and rushes to the sea	Floating in the magic and the leaves.

Noopimiing (in the forest)

And just you happened on it  
When you walked out in the forest  
Just to gaze upon the trees

## Songbird

---

**Text: Sarah Quartel**

I am a Songbird; I will sing anything. Give me a tune, I will spin you gold.  
Closer you come to the Songbird weaving, stronger the thread of the music's hold.  
Feel in the breeze a breath, a soaring song to you, and hear me say:  
'I am a Songbird; I will sing anything. Follow the breeze and come my way!'

One little bird on a branch sits fanning amber wings to the passersby.  
Two little birds in flight are threading webs of gold in an endless sky.  
Three little birds with brushes painting moonlit sighs in the height of day.  
Four little birds with voices gleaming breathe to the wind singing 'come my way!'

Sing little bird so sweetly. Drown my fears completely.

Five little birds with feathers fluffing stretch and spread in the midday sun.  
Six little birds are cooing, humming, drawing the eyes of ev'ryone.  
Seven little birds in fountains splashing. Droplets soar, they fawn and play.  
Eight little birds raise voices higher, breathe to the wind singing, 'come my way!'

Sing little bird so sweetly. Drown my fears completely.

Fly, little Songbirds, to the horizon. Land meets sky and sky meets sea.  
Dance, little Songbirds, flick your feathers, move the current, carry me!  
Sing, little Songbirds, call to your lovers. Draw them in completely.  
You, little Songbirds, you can sing anything. I follow the wind and I come your way.

## Loveliest of Trees

---

Text: E. A. Housman (1859–1936)

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now  
Is hung with bloom along the bough,  
And stands about the woodland ride  
Wearing white for Eastertide.

And since to look at things in bloom  
Fifty springs are little room,  
About the woodlands I will go  
To see the cherry hung with snow.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,  
Twenty will not come again,  
And take from seventy springs a score,  
It only leaves me fifty more.

## All the love that lies beneath

---

Text: Edward Enman

Leading, moving t'ward the end,  
Warmly show and freely send  
    All the love that lies beneath.

Hide the day in mem'ries deep  
And keep all openness in sleep.  
    Find the love that lies beneath.

When all lights in towers dim,  
Hold the lamp, strong from within.  
    Share the love that lies beneath.

Breathing softly, list'ning near,  
Seek a shadow's sound to hear,  
    Travel closely without need  
And reach your heart to those who bleed.  
    Take the peace you strive to grow  
And build a wind with which to blow - All the love that lies beneath,  
    All the love that lies beneath,  
    All the love that lies beneath.

## You Speak Violets

---

**Text: Shannon Bramer (b. 1973), from "Climbing Shadows"**

sometimes you are quiet as a trillium yet your eyes speak  
the language of wild basil red butterflies impatient  
for a buzzing loud summer you've got a young forest inside you  
i see waterfalls beyond tall white sleeping trees  
birches poplars where everything is moving and alive

i see rushing water in your eyes when you get a new idea  
sun through the branches making shadows inside you  
when you find it hard to say what you are feeling

you speak violets

## Da Pacem Domine

---

**Text: c. 6th Century hymn**

Da pacem, Domine, in diebus nostris	<i>Give peace, O Lord, in our time</i>
Quia non est alius	<i>Because there is no one else</i>
Qui pugnet pro nobis	<i>Who fights for us</i>
Nisi tu Deus noster.	<i>If not You, our God.</i>

## Anthem for a doomed youth

---

**Text: Wilfred Owen (1893–1918)**

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?  
— Only the monstrous anger of the guns.  
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle  
Can patter out their hasty orisons.  
No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells;  
Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,—  
The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;  
And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

## Hear My Prayer

---

**Text from Psalm 102:1**

Hear my prayer, O Lord,  
And let my crying come unto thee.  
Hide not thy face from me.

## hope, faith, life, love...

---

**Text from !Hope by E.E. Cummings (1894–1962)**

!hope  
faith!  
!life  
love!  
dream!  
!joy  
truth!  
!soul

## The Letter

---

**TEXT: compiled by the composer from a 1958 letter quoted in UK Parliamentary transcripts, and a 19th-century poem attributed to Lord Byron.**

People have no idea of the life we live, the life of fear and dread.  
I want them to look upon this debate with kindness and sympathy,  
and think, "There, but for the grace of God, go I."

Love, love it was, that made my eyes delight  
To have his person ever in my sight.

I do not pretend that I am good,  
but I am like many.

## Vision Chant

---

### Text in Ojibway

Babamadizwin (Journey)

Windigo \*

Mishomis (Grandfather)

Nokomis (Grandmother)



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Our aim is to support the production of choral performances of a high calibre in Edmonton, Alberta, and beyond.

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Chronos Music Society (CMS) Board members are engaged critical thinkers who bring diverse skills and perspectives. In addition to playing critical oversight and policy roles, over the past dynamic decade, board members have provided advisory insights in areas such as human resources, administration, fundraising, and financial procedures. Board members have helped broaden our connections in the community to move projects forward. We're seeking new board members to help expand our profile and capacity.

CMS has gained and maintained stable funding streams from the three levels of government funding bodies, project support from several foundations, and a growing base of engaged concert-goers, donors, and sponsors. These have enabled artistic achievements including our annual concert seasons, national and international touring, extensive recording work, and our annual composition competition. A growing area of focus is championing Canadian composers and commissioning new music; in the current season, the choir will have premiered multiple new works in every performance.

The CMS Board meets approximately monthly, and our members also engage in committee work on a variety of projects to strengthen the organization for the future. If you are interested in fostering excellence through volunteer board service with Chronos Music Society, please contact us to learn more, or chat with President Virginia Clevette or one of our board members.



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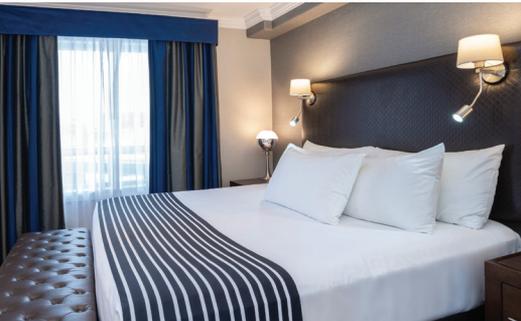
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