

JUNE 4 | 7:30 PM | MCDUGALL UNITED CHURCH

A large circular graphic is centered on the page. It consists of a gold glitter ring on the left, a colorful mosaic ring on the right, and a solid red circle in the center. The word "Symbiosis" is written in a large, white, serif font across the center of the graphic.

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PROGRAM

Mass in E flat, Op. 109 'Cantus Missae'

Josef Gabriel Rheinberger (1839–1901)

- I. Kyrie Eleison
- II. Gloria
- IV. Agnus Dei

Breathe

Matthew Emery (b.1991) *

Lao Rahal Soti

arr. Shireen Abu-Khader (b.1972) *

Love's Not Lost*

David Dykstra (b.1988) *

Agnus Dei

From *Mass for Double Choir*
Frank Martin (1890–1974)

Nachtlied

Max Reger (1873–1916)

Deux/Two Solitudes

Marie-Claire Saindon (b.1984) *

Elements

Katerina Gimón (b.1993) *

- I. Earth
- II. Air
- III. Fire
- IV. Water

Zoo Nocturnes*

Nicholas Ryan Kelly (b.1986) *

- I. Dreaming Upside Down
- II. Climbing Shadows
- III. Owl Secrets

All our love, always*

Stuart Beatch (b.1991) *

Music is Vibration

Andrew Balfour (b.1967) *

intermission

* Canadian Composer * Premiere

Chronos Vocal Ensemble

Since its founding in 2013, Chronos Vocal Ensemble has gained a national reputation for innovation and excellence. The ensemble has delighted audiences at concerts in Edmonton, on tours in four provinces, and at the conferences of Choir Alberta, Choral Canada and the American Choral Directors' Association. The choir has been recognized both nationally and locally, with the Healey Willan Grand Prize in the National Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs, and Edmonton's Salute to Excellence.

Collaborators have included the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Alberta Baroque Ensemble, Vocal Alchemy, Spiritus Chamber Choir (Calgary), Da Camera Singers and Edmonton Youth Choir. The choir's first three albums are regularly featured on CBC's *Choral Concert*.

In championing new Canadian choral music, Chronos has given more than a dozen world premieres, and commissioned composers including Andrew Balfour, Marie-Claire Saindon, Matthew Emery, Katerina Gimon, and Nicholas Ryan Kelly. To bring more new works into the Canadian catalogue, the ensemble has offered an annual composition competition since 2017. The choir's fourth album, *Resolve*, features the music of eight Canadian composers.

SOPRANO

Melanie Astle
Virginia Clevette
Jessica Heine
Tegan Hryciw
Rebecca Patterson
Carla Stolte
Amanda Wong

ALTO

Erin Crocker
Deanna Davis
Britney Hyunh
Vita Lorence
Amelia Pask Snook
Roxanne Runyon
Alex Thompson

TENOR

Aaron Addorisio
David Dykstra
Joshua Dykstra
Aaron Hill
Isabela Ramos
David Salmon

BASS

David Almond
Stuart Beatch
Cole Dorchester
Ryan Garbett
Kurt Illerbrun
Chad Ohman
Gabriel Stephens
Frank Thede

Chronos Music Society operates on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place, and traveling route to the nêhiyaw/Cree, Dene, Anishinaabe/Saulteaux, Nakota Isga/Nakota Sioux, Niitsitapi/Blackfoot peoples. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.



Welcome

Jordan Van Biert

Founder & Conductor

The art form we practice is ever-evolving, and presents opportunities to search in many directions for new ideas and new sounds. At the same time, the Western choral tradition comprises a history of 500 or more years of musical practice.

Symbiosis celebrates both tradition and novelty, in a program including centuries-old unaccompanied music for up to eight voices, together with brand new Canadian works receiving world premieres.

We highlight the unique relationship of composer and performer by hosting composer Nicholas Ryan Kelly and performing a brand new work drawing upon *Climbing Shadows*, a book of poetry "inspired by a class of kindergarten children whom poet and playwright Shannon Bramer came to know over the course of a school year." The three-movement *Zoo Nocturnes* was co-commissioned by Chronos Vocal Ensemble and the Vancouver Cantata Singers.

Powerful and personal, we feature several pieces dedicated to departed loved ones and close-to-the-heart subjects. Chronos's own founding member and tenor David Dykstra is the composer of *Love's Not Lost*, a personal response to the loss of a close friend. Also premiering today is Stuart Beatch's *All Our Love, Always*, commissioned by long-time Chronos supporter Mark Freeman with text in memory of his mother, Phyllis.

We are also pleased to present a live performance of *Breathe* by Matthew Emery. Commissioned in 2020 through the support of David Almond and his family, this work is dedicated to the memory of his mother Anna Almond, and all victims of Covid-19. This is our first opportunity to present this recently-published work for a larger live audience, after premiering it in "virtual choir" format in 2020. We look forward to having David join the choir onstage for the performance.

We also present music of esteemed Canadian composers Katerina Gimon, Marie-Claire Saindon, Shireen Abu-Khader and Andrew Balfour. And with the oldest work on the program, Rheinberger's *Mass in E flat* for double choir, we reach back to a memory of our very first full concert performance in January 2014; this is a foretaste of things to come as we prepare for our tenth anniversary next season!

Thank you for being here!



Scan for extended program notes

ChronosVocalEnsemble.com/symbiosis-extendedprogram/



Jordan Van Biert

Jordan unites singers in the common goal of creating rich musical experiences – for themselves, for each other, and for audiences. He founded Chronos Vocal Ensemble in 2013 to pursue excellence in choral performance. Early in his tenure with Chronos, Jordan was nominated as Emerging Artist in Edmonton’s Mayor’s Celebration of the Arts. He also leads the choral organizations Vocal Alchemy and Ante Meridiem, 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 serves as a workshop leader, adjudicator, juror, and organizational consultant. As an educator he has worked with choirs at Concordia High School, Concordia University of Edmonton, and the University of Alberta. He appears regularly as an ensemble member and soloist with Calgary's Luminous Voices. Other interests include permaculture gardening, sustainable building practices, and the frustrating game of golf.



Stuart Beatch Composer

Stuart Beatch is a Canadian choral composer currently living in Edmonton. He received a Master of Music in Composition from King’s College London, studying with composer Rob Keeley, and is currently the composer-in-residence for The Fourth Choir (an LGBT chamber choir in London, UK). Beatch previously studied composition at the University of Alberta and has also received mentorship from Scottish composer Sir James MacMillan and Latvian composer Uģis Prauliņš. While Beatch has a special affinity for the Canadian choral community, his music has frequently been sung by vocal ensembles across North America and Europe, including the BBC Singers, Voces Nordicae, Pro Coro Canada, National Youth Choir of Canada, Luminous Voices, musica intima, Chronos Vocal Ensemble, Spiritus Chamber Choir, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, Cantabile Chamber Singers, Chorus Austin, and Choral Arts Initiative. He is an Associate Composer with the Canadian Music Centre and a member of the Canadian League of Composers.



David Dykstra Composer

David Dykstra is a creative and collaborative composer of both choral and instrumental chamber music. David's work reflects his fascination with music's unique power to reimagine and reframe life's experiences. While staying true to his first loves in solo piano and choral work, David has grown into a versatile composer of piano and violin duets, string quartets, string orchestral works, and even a piece for full orchestra. Featured close to home by talented ensembles like the Vaughan String Quartet and Chamber Orchestra of Edmonton, David's works have been performed across Canada and internationally in Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. daviddykstra.ca



Nicholas Ryan Kelly Composer

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.

Texts & Translations

Mass in E flat, Op. 109 'Cantus Missæ'

Text: From the Latin Mass

I Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison	<i>Lord, have mercy</i>
Christe Eleison	<i>Christ, have mercy</i>
Kyrie Eleison	<i>Lord, have mercy</i>

II Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo.	<i>Glorry to God in the highest,</i>
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.	<i>and on earth, peace; good will toward all.</i>
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.	<i>We praise you. We bless you.</i>
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.	<i>We worship you. We glorify you.</i>
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.	<i>We give you thanks for your great glory.</i>

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.	<i>Lord God, heavenly king, God the Father almighty.</i>
Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe.	<i>Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,</i>
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.	<i>Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.</i>
Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.	<i>you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;</i>
Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.	<i>you take away the sin of the world: hear our prayer.</i>
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.	<i>You are seated at Father's right hand: have mercy on us.</i>

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus. Tu solus Dominus.	<i>For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,</i>
Tu solus Altissimus, Iesu Christe.	<i>you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,</i>
Cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.	<i>with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.</i>

IV Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.	<i>Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.</i>
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.	<i>Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.</i>
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.	<i>Lamb of God, who sakes away the sins of the world, grant us pe ace.</i>

Breathe

Text: Francesco Petrarca (1304–1374), trans. T. Wentworth Higginson

I saw how tears had left their weary traces
Within those eyes that once the sun outshone,
I heard those lips, in low and plaintive moan,
Breathe words to stir the mountains from their places.
Love, wisdom, courage, tenderness, and truth
Made in their mourning strains more high and dear
Than ever wove soft sounds for mortal ear;
And heaven seemed listening in such saddest truth
The very leaves upon the bough to soothe,
Such sweetness filled the blissful atmosphere.

Lao Rahal Soti

Text: Samih Choukeir (b. 1957)

لَو رَحَل صُوتِي مَا بُتْرَحَل حَنَاجِرْكُمْ
عُيُونِي عَلَي بُكْرَا وَقَلْبِي مَعَكُمْ
لَو رَاحِ الْمُفْتَيِّ بِتُضَلَّ الْأَمَانِي
تَجْمَعُ لِقُلُوبِ الْمَكْسُورَةِ وَالْبِتْعَانِي

If my voice departs, your throats (voices) will not
I look unto tomorrow and my heart is with you
If the singer goes (dies), the songs will remain
Bringing together the broken and suffering hearts

Love's Not Lost

Text: David Dykstra

My love, how I wish that I were there,
where the bright mountain peaks stretch to the sky.
My love's not lost even though you're gone,
my heart will find a way.

My love, how I wish that you were here
where there's no darkness or suffering to feel.
How my heart breaks as you cry alone,
but I know you'll find a way.

The mountains come, the rocks, the snow,
a journey fraught with highs and lows.
Forest dense and waters quick,
I cannot see, the fog's too thick.

No peace is found in solitude,
only anguish in the quiet of night.
Where once your warmth and breath was felt,
now only wind and ice.

My love



10
YEARS

We continue to strive and thrive thanks to the support of our audience. Your backing allows us to pursue ambitious projects like album releases, our composition competition, performances with exciting guest artists, new commissions, and world premieres.

Over the coming months, Chronos Vocal Ensemble will celebrate its tenth anniversary! In the 2023–2024 Season, we hope to undertake a significant new commission project, perform favourite masterworks, produce new kinds of performances in the wider community, and explore exciting new collaborations.

**To support a
10th anniversary
initiative please
reach out to us.**

Agnus Dei

Text: From the Latin Mass

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.	<i>Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.</i>
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.	<i>Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.</i>
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.	<i>Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.</i>

Nachtlied

Text: Petrus Herbert (1533–1571)

Die Nacht ist kommen, Drin wir ruhen sollen; Gott walt's, zum Frommen Nach sein'm Wohlgefallen, Daß wir uns legen In sein'm G'leit und Segen, Der Ruh' zu pflegen.	<i>The night has fallen, And we should rest; God is there, to care for us By his good will, So that we settle In his company and blessing, To maintain the peace.</i>
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Treib, Herr, von uns fern Die unreinen Geister, Halt die Nachtwach' gern, Sei selbst unser Schutzherr, Schirm beid Leib und Seel' Unter deine Flügel, Send' uns dein' Engel!	<i>Father, drive the evil spirits Far away from us; Keep the night watch; Be our protector; Shield both body and soul Under your wings; Send us your angels!</i>
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Laß uns einschlafen Mit guten Gedanken, Fröhlich aufwachen Und von dir nicht wanken; Laß uns mit Züchten Unser Tun und Dichten Zu dein'm Preis richten!	<i>Let us go to sleep With good thoughts, Happily awaken And never waver from you; Let us, with rearing, Focus our deeds and words On your glory!</i>
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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 entités 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.

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monthly donor through our website.**



Elements

Text by composer Katerina Gimon

air, wind, breath aeris, ventus, spiritus aire, viento, respiraci3n
air, vent, souffle povitrya, viter, dykhannya adhar, goath, an3il aria, vento, respiro

Text below provided for thematic context (not sung).

I. Earth

earth
calm, constant
sturdy, still, steady
rock, sand, soil, and terrain
earth

III. Fire

fire
heat, light
strength, fuel, drive
burning, melting, evaporating, and transforming
fire

II. Air

air
wind, breath
free, dynamic, transparent
moving, flowing, changing, and fuelling
air

IV. Water

water
growth, change
deep, reflective, fluid
flowing, connecting, nourishing, and cleansing
water



CALL FOR BOARD

Chronos Vocal Ensemble is supported by the work of the Board of Directors of Chronos Music Society. This skilled and dynamic group is looking for new members to join the work. Could you be part of the team that launches our second decade of success?

The Board plays critical oversight and governance roles, and its members provide advisory insights in human resources, policy development, fundraising, and financial management. Together, let's foster artistic excellence in our community and beyond.

ChronosVocalEnsemble.com

Zoo Nocturnes

Text: Shannon Bramer (b. 1973), from "Climbing Shadows: Poems for Children"

I. Dreaming Upside Down

The little brown bats
in my attic
sleep all day

dream

upside

down

Baby bat dreams of his mother
Mama bat dreams of her baby

It's the same dream –
they are flying
together

along cracking walls of sky
broken black echoes

of buildings
in shadows

until they smell
rocks trees

water

They taste wind rain
and have no words
for where they must go

II. Climbing Shadows

I have a kitten
in my night bedroom

See her tiny paws, ginger fur
tumbling along

bubbles of light
in the dark house I sleep in?

It's not ghosts –

it's only cars going by outside
making ribbons
on my walls

and my kitten is climbing shadows

III. Owl Secrets

I love an owl with eyes
that see to the bottom of me.
I am an ocean, I whisper to my owl.
I am old inside my body.
Because I know the secrets of owls,
I close my eyes and she opens hers.
Her wings fold over my sleep,
and her heart beats
through her feathers
so I can listen.

Owls love the dark,
Like me like you
you

All our love, always

Text: Mark Freeman (b. 1960) and AJ Verhappen (b. 1987)

Dad says what you learn at Mother's knee matters most.
The big and the small.
Trips to the library, or cross-country by train.
Fairytales, and a fairytale island.

Fifteen words more precious than all the rest in the universe:
"I hope you'll have as good a time raising her, as I had raising you."

The first days of school come so fast,
but secure, in the orbit of home:
lunch with the Flintstones, music lessons and
books of world knowledge one by one from Safeway.

Fifteen words more precious than all the rest in the universe:
"I hope you'll have as good a time raising her, as I had raising you."

When we leave home, you come with us.
Knit sweaters and laminated recipe cards our shields.
You handwriting our anchor.
The knee-high years never end.
Important Mom lessons
our whole lives,
from some sublime place.

Fifteen words more precious than all the rest in the universe:
"I hope you'll have as good a time raising her, as I had raising you."

Whenever we see the first bleeding hearts
and tulips of spring,
we'll remember you.
Whenever we sing, we'll sing to you.
"Take good care."
All our love, always.

Music is Vibration

Text: Dominic Gregorio (1977–2019)

Music is vibration; can you see it?
Sound is emotion; can you feel it?
Invisible, intangible; yet touches deep within.
A ringing, a resonance, a returning; twin to twin.

Melody is your nature; can you sing it?
Harmony—all your cells; won't you dance it?
Plain old eyes cannot see it
But deep in your heart you do know it.

Music is vibration; can you see it?



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We've done our best to include everyone from July 1, 2022; please let us know of any errors or omissions.

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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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