

SATURDAY NOV 30 / 2024 3 PM

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CONDUCTOR LARS KAARIO

LAUDATE SINGERS,
PARAGON SINGERS,
SOLOISTS & ORCHESTRA

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AN ITALIAN BAROQUE CHRISTMAS IS GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Chan

FOR YOUR CALENDAR LAUDATE SINGERS SOCIETY'S SPRING CONCERTS



A Farewell Note - Laudate Singers Sun March 2, 3pm, West Vancouver United Church, West Vancouver

An eclectic a cappella program with Laudate commissions from over the years including works by Chris Sivak, Bruce Sled, Tyler Peterson, Emile Deedes-Vincke and André Luiz Machado. Also choral jewels by Esenvalds, Bruckner, McGlynn, Whitacre, MacMillan and Elgar. A time to celebrate Laudate Singers, Canadian composers and choral music in general! Laudate Singers' final solo concert.



A French Affair - Laudate Singers & Paragon Singers, Baroque Orchestra & Soloists Sat April 12, 3pm, West Vancouver United Church, West Vancouver

Laudate Singers, Paragon Singers, soloists and Baroque Orchestra end our season with fantastic French repertoire. Thrill to Charpentier's Te Deum, Duruflé's Quatre Motets, and Fauré's Requiem. This final main series concert will be followed by a celebratory reception to honour and look back at the 30 years of our Society

AN ITALIAN BAROQUE CHRISTMAS

Laudate Singers, Paragon Singers & Baroque Orchestra Lars Kaario, Conductor

November 30, 2024, 3pm

The Christmas Concerto, Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 8

Arcangelo Corelli 1653-1713

- 1. Vivace grave
- 2. Allegro
- 3. Adagio-Allegro-Adagio
- 4. Vivace
- 5. Allegro
- 6. Largo: Pastorale ad libitum

Soloists: Nancy DiNovo, Majka Demcak, Brian Mix

* * * * *

Magnificat a 8 voci, da Selva morale e spirituale 1640, SV281

Claudio Monteverdi 1567-1643

Soloists: Soprano – Laura Kaario & Sydney Sorokan Tenor – Eric Schwarzhoff & Mark De Silva, Bass – Andrew Wilson & Barry Honda

* * * * *

Gloria a 7, da Selva morale et spirituale 1641, SV258

Claudio Monteverdi 1567-1643

Soloists: Soprano – Catherine Crouch & Veronica Roenitz, Alto – Lou Latil, Tenor – Eric Schwarzhoff & Mark De Silva, Bass – Andrew Wilson & Barry Honda

- 20-minute intermission -

Magnificat, RV610

Antonio Vivaldi 1678-1741

1.	Magnificat	Chorus
2.	Et exultavit	Laudate Singers
3.	Et misericordia eius	Chorus
4.	Fecit potentiam	Chorus
5.	Deposuit	Chorus
6.	Esurientes	Soprano Duet
7.	Suscepit Israel	Chorus
8.	Sicut locutus est	Chorus
9.	Gloria Patri	Chorus

Soloists: Catherine Crouch & Sylwia Karwowska

* * * * *

Magnificat in B^b major

Francesco Durante 1684-1755

1. Magnificat Chorus

2. Et misericordia Soprano/Alto Duet & Chorus

3. Deposuit potentes Chorus

4. Suscepit Israel Tenor/Bass Duet

5. Sicut locutus est6. Gloria PatriChorus

Soloists: Soprano – Laura Kaario, Alto – Jessica De Gaust Tenor – Eric Schwarzhoff, Bass – Barry Honda

NOTES AND TRANSLATIONS

Arcangelo Corelli's **Christmas Concerto** is so evocative of the brilliance of the festive season! He lived in Rome where he led a successful musical career supported by his patron, Cardinal Pietro Ottoboni from 1689 until his death in 1713. It appears that Corelli wrote the Concerto we hear today, the most famous of his compositions, as a commission by Ottoboni for Christmas Eve in 1690. The Pastorale, in particular, was designed for Christmas with musical imitations of shepherds' pipes.



Arcangelo Corelli by Hugh Howard

Three of the four choral pieces on today's program use the **Magnificat** text! Few other texts are more appropriate to celebrate the wonder of Christmas, the Christian festival rejoicing in the birth of Jesus. The Magnificat text is Luke 1:46-55, has been part of liturgies of Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant Christian churches for centuries and has been set to music by innumerable composers. Luke portrays Mary as the singer of this song of praise to God and her humble acceptance of her unexpected pregnancy.

The **Gloria** text is another is part of the Ordinary of the Catholic Mass, sung except during Lent and Advent. It is often referred to as the angelic hymn as it begins with the angels' words sung at Christ's birth, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men of good will".

Below are the texts/translations and then some brief information about the composers.

Magnificat

Magnificat anima mea Dominum Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo. Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae: ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent. omnes generationes. Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est:. et sanctum nomen ejus Et misericordia ejus a progenie in progenies timentibus eum. Fecit potentiam in bracchio suo: dispersit superbos mente cordis sui. Deposuit potentes de sede, et exaltavit humiles. Esurientes implevit bonis: et divites dimisit inanes. Suscepit Israel puerum suum,. recordatus misericordiae suae Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros, Abraham et semini ejus in saecula. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum, Amen.

My soul magnifies the Lord.

And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he who is mighty has done great things to me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud, even the arrogant of heart. He has deposed the mighty from their seats, and exalted the humble. The hungry he has filled with good things and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy. As it was spoken to our fathers to Abraham and his seed forever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, As it was in the beginning, is now

and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

Gloria a 7

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,

Glory to God in the highest.

And on earth peace to all those of good will.

We praise thee. We bless thee.

We worship thee. We glorify thee.

We give thanks to thee according to thy great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.

Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.

Thou who takest away the sins of the world,

miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus sanctus. Tu solus Dominus.
Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

have mercy upon us.
Thou who takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou who sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou alone art holy. Thou alone art the Lord.
Thou alone art the most high, Jesus Christ.
With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen

Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643) was a church musician from an early age, a singer, organist and viol player, and was strongly influenced by the operas composed in his day. He wrote many fine operas himself which were highly innovative for their time. It was during his tenure as maestro di cappella at Venice's Basilica San Marco beginning in 1613 that his fame spread.

In his early 70s, just a few years before his death, Monteverdi published two large compilations of his vocal works written in Venice, mostly for presentation at Saint Mark's, called the Selva morale et spirituale (Moral and Spiritual Forest). Today we present two of the pieces from this compilation: the **Magnificat a 8** and the **Gloria a 7**. The Magnificat is scored for 8 choral parts in SATB/SATB formation, while the Gloria which was likely first presented as part of the thanksgiving mass at the end of the Venetian plague in 1631, is grandly scored for 7 choral parts. Unsurprisingly for Monteverdi, they both are extremely expressive, dramatic and communicative.



Claudio Monteverdi by Bernardo Strozzi (c.1630)



St Mark's Basilica in Venice where Monteverdi directed music for 30 years

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) wrote hundreds of choral works for the young women at the Ospedale della Pietà where he was music director including this Magnificat written in about 1715. The Ospedale was a unique place of care for illegitimate children. They were left usually anonymously at this public social institute – all were welcome without question, and many were children of Venetian noblemen and their mistresses. Boys and girls were educated at the Pièta until age ten when they learned a trade, the boys elsewhere and the girls at the Pièta itself. During Vivaldi's time, some girls were chosen to be musicians and their very popular concerts earned money for the functioning of the Pièta. Many of the choral works were easily transcribed for mixed voice ensembles, including this Magnificat. It is expressive, ranging from solemn and majestic to lively and joyful. We love it!



Antonio Vivaldi (assumed), artist unknown



Francesco Durante, artist unknown

Francesco Durante (1684-1755) was highly regarded both during his lifetime and for a considerable time afterwards, even being compared favourably with Handel as the greatest choral music master [Mendel's Musicalisches Conversations-Lexikon, 1873]. Born very near Naples, he studied music with Gaetano Greco and Alessandro Scarlatti. He also spent some time in Rome and perhaps Austria but most of his working life was spent in Naples. Unlike most Neapolitan composers of the time who were entranced and tried to make their mark through opera, Durante concentrated on church music. Through the 20th century, the Magnificat we sing tonight was attributed to Durante's well known pupil Pergolesi even though it was well known to be Durante's work before then.

THE PERFORMERS

LAUDATE SINGERS Laudate means praise, and for Laudate Singers, every concert is a joyful celebration. Now celebrating its 30th season, current artistic director Lars Kaario founded Laudate Singers in 1995. This chamber choir continues to skillfully and passionately present repertoire that spans centuries, cultures and genres. The choir also strives to foster the development of professional musicians and enrich the cultural fabric of our community.

Laudate Singers is a committed champion of Canadian choral music, commissioning and performing new Canadian works every season in addition to mentoring and nurturing young composers through a composer-in-residence programme. Over the years, over 80 pieces have been added to Canadian choral arts repertoire!

Laudate Singers has been pleased to undertake stimulating and innovative partnerships with high caliber local performers and ensembles including Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra, the North Shore Celtic Ensemble,



Tangissimo, Denis Bédard, Ariel Barnes, Heidi Krutzen, Ross Taggart, and many fine period baroque instrumentalists. The choir was honoured to represent North Vancouver at a Chiba (Japan) Cultural Festival. The choir recorded seven critically-acclaimed CDs: Christmas Journey, Songs of Heaven and Earth, A Baroque Christmas, Celtic Journey, Voices, Sax & Syn, Voice of the Tango, and Mystics & Lovers.

Since the establishment of Paragon Singers, large scale choral/orchestral works have been added to their repertoire.

PARAGON SINGERS is a large mixed intermediate-level choir formed in September 2021. Part of Laudate Singers Society, Paragon Singers focuses on major choral/orchestral works along with shorter choral gems both old and new. Lars Kaario is director. Paragon Singers' first major concert was in May 2021 when it performed Orff's Carmina Burana and Mozart's Requiem together with Laudate Singers, soloists and the Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra. Since then, our combined choirs together with guest professional instrumentalists have presented Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Handel's Messiah, and a program including both Canadian contemporary pieces plus Schubert, Haydn, Mozart, and Zelenka. In June 2023, many members of Laudate and Paragon toured Czechia and Austria with this program. We were blessed to sing in such places as the Dome in Salzburg, St. Stephens in Vienna, and St. Giles and St. Nicholas in Prague. Our final tour, this time to Northern Italy, will take place in June 2024.



Lars Kaario, Conductor, is founder and artistic director of Laudate Singers and Paragon Singers. He has built an impressive reputation as a conductor, singer and educator in his native Vancouver. Lars has forged valuable and lasting relationships with leading musicians and organizations in BC's arts scene. He is keenly interested in commissioning and performing Canadian music. Mr. Kaario retired in 2021 after a 35-year career at Capilano University where he was Director of Choral Studies in the Diploma of Music Program, leading Capilano University Singers and Capilano University Festival Chorus. He was also the head instructor in the University's Conducting Certificate Program. Lars has appeared as conductor with such notable local ensembles as the Pacific Baroque Orchestra, Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra, Theatre Under the Stars and others. He has also appeared as soloist in Bach's B Minor Mass, Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Requiem and more with many of BC's major choirs and orchestras. While retiring from conducting Laudate Singers and Paragon Singers in 2025, he will continue teaching both voice and conducting in his private studio.



Åsa Eidelof Susan Hill Bass II **LAUDATE SINGERS** Vivienne Hall Denise Howell Brian Dobbin Soprano Jean Lee Besha Hu Barry Honda, principal Julie Peters Bill Marsh Catherine Crouch Connie Hubbs Veronica Roenitz Gabrielle Komorowska John Russell Laura Kaario Christine Rozario Lou Latil, principal Kees van den Doel Sylwia Karwowska Cathy Schoch Esther Lau Amy Pun Charmaine To Sheila Lindfield Veronica Roenitz **ORCHESTRA** Janis McCaffrey Sydney Sorokan Soprano II **Emma Penney** Violin I Alto Kim Aippersbach Erika Plettner Nancy DiNovo, Caroline Colijn Karen Cohen Nancy Ross concertmaster **Kimberly Davies** Trudy Schneider Rebecca Ruthven Jessica De Gaust Sarah Westwick Cara Elrod Diane Uitz Lou Latil Norah Findlay Claire Weeks Maureen Nicholson Violin II Abegael Fisher-Lang Fran Wilt Majka Demcak Tenor Ana Harland Wendy You Jiten Beairsto Mark De Silva Anne Kaario Janet Zathureczky Tannaz Kompani Viola Nathan Kaleta Ricarda McDonald Tenor I Ju Dee Ang André Luiz Machado Janice Moger John Borgerson Chris Robinson Cello **Evelyn Nodwell** Eric Schwarzhoff, principal **Brian Mix** Bass Anne Parker James Tigchelaar Nick Ainsworth Maria Porubanskaya Bass Preston Lee Janet Powell Tenors II Yefeng Yin Joy Russell André Luiz Machado, Kees van den Doel Bassoon Theresa Wang principal **Andrew Wilson** Katrina Russell Clive Roberts Altos Theorbo PARAGON SINGERS Elaine Alpert Bass I Konstantin Bozhinov Angelica Beissel Chris Bates Soprano I Organ Darcy Berka Gerhardt **Tom Handley** Janet Becker

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Helene Gauthier Patricia Harrington Chris Sedergreen

David Woodhouse

Eric Hominick

Director/Conductor Lars Kaario

Farewell Concert - Tues May 27 A two-week tour of northern Italy is being planned and May 27th is your opportunity to bid the choirs farewell. Time and venue tba.

THANK YOU

Laudate Singers Society acknowledges that we live and work on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples including the Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. We are grateful for their care of this land they graciously share with us. May we all strive for peace, equity and cooperation in our relationship with each other and work together to care for this land.

We thank:

- Staff at Highlands United Church & North Shore Unitarian Church, our rehearsal spaces
- Staff at West Vancouver United Church, particularly Fiona Watts & Andrew Kottmeier
- Rehearsal pianists Eric Hominick & Arthur Lo
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- Front-of-house, set up and tear down volunteers
- EventLAB, livestream services
- Susana Valente, audio engineer
- North Shore News, promotion
- Contact Printing, printing service
- Michaela Davidson for gifting us the right to use her beautiful art for our graphics this season.

DONORS ARE APPRECIATED!

Laudate Singers Society, like other arts groups, must rely on fundraising and donations to meet expenses. We salute those whose contributions to Laudate Singers Society within the past year allow us to present choral concerts of the highest calibre to our community.

Maestro (\$5000+) - Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Chan, Mark De Silva, Besha Hu & Wendy Qianyan, Veronica Roenitz

Singers' Circle (\$1000-\$2499) - Audrey Brown, Darcye Cuff in memory of Darlene Cuff, John Mingay, Gabrielle Komorowska

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You make all the difference!

FUNDRAISING AUCTION ITEM DONORS 2024

Our October gala fundraiser, A Night at the Opera, was a great event! The party was filled with music, buffet dinner, silent auction, old and new friends and lots of laughter. We thank all those who generously contributed to the auction.

Abegael Fisher-Lang Always In Style Pearls Ami Boutique Ana Harland Ararat Oriental Rugs

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Laudate Singers' annual tradition returns with our short and sweet Free Family Christmas Concert! Featuring classical choral pieces including selections from today's concert plus sing-along holiday favourites for kids of all ages.

Two locations. Everyone welcome. Free admission.

DEC 14 / 2024 2 PM

AT WEST VANCOUVER MEMORIAL LIBRARY WEST VANCOUVER

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AT ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH NORTH VANCOUVER

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Our next main series concert is an a cappella concert with some of the fantastic and varied songs we've enjoyed over the last 30 years.

Join us for this final concert by Laudate Singers on their own and discover anew the particular beauty of voices singing without accompaniment.

