



LAUDATE
SINGERS

2024 / 25
SUNSET SEASON

A FAREWELL NOTE

SUNDAY
MARCH 2 / 2025
3 PM

CONDUCTOR
LARS KAARIO

WEST VANCOUVER
UNITED CHURCH
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SATURDAY
APRIL 12 / 2025
3 PM

A FRENCH
AFFAIR

A French Affair – Laudate Singers & Paragon Singers, Baroque Orchestra & Soloists
Saturday April 12, 3:00pm, West Vancouver United Church, West Vancouver

We end our season with fantastic French repertoire. Thrill to **Charpentier's** *Te Deum*, **Durufle'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. Be a part of it!

A FAREWELL NOTE

Laudate Singers
Lars Kaario, Conductor
March 2, 2025

Ecco Mormorar l'Onde	Claudio Monteverdi 1567-1643
Zefiro torna e'l bel tempo rimena	Monteverdi
Kyrie, from Mass for Double Choir	Frank Martin 1890-1974
Christus factus est	Anton Bruckner 1824-1896
Lux Aurumque <i>Soprano Sydney Sorokan</i>	Eric Whitacre b.1970
Blackthorn <i>Soprano Catherine Crouch</i>	trad. Celtic, arr. Michael McGlynn b.1964
Only In Sleep <i>Soprano Laura Kaario</i>	Ēriks Ešenvalds b.1977

– Intermission –

Laudate (*1995)	Tyler Peterson b.1970
the everlasting voices (*2016) <i>Soprano Sylwia Karwowska</i>	Chris Sivak b.1982
Songs of Zephrus (*2008)	Bruce Sled b.1975
1. Blowe there sweet Zephrus	
2. Cupid thou Art A Sluggish boye	
3. Hange golden slepe uppon hir Eye-lids faire	
Where the Earth is Quiet (*2021)	Emile Deedes-Vincke b.1999
I am a fountain, You are my water (*2022)	André Luiz Machado b.1982
Hastav Avar (*2004)	Moshe Denburg b.1949
Michelle <i>Soloists: Catherine Crouch & Chris Robinson</i>	Lennon & McCartney, arr. Gene Puerling 1929-2008
Butterfly	Mia Makaroff b.1970

* *Previous commission*

Laudate Singers

Soprano – Catherine Crouch, Laura Kaario, Sylwia Karwowska, Amy Pun, Veronica Roenitz, Sydney Sorokan

Alto – Caroline Colijn, Jessica De Gaust, Lou Latil, Maureen Nicholson

Tenor – Mark De Silva, Nathan Kaleta, André Luiz Machado, Chris Robinson

Bass – Nick Ainsworth, Preston Lee, Kees van den Doel, Adam Turpin, Andrew Wilson

Director – Lars Kaario

WELCOME

Laudate Singers has been my passion for 30 years. I have been privileged to work with hundreds of wonderful singers over the years. Sometimes they would sing with us for only a year or two before moving onto more education or a different choir in Vancouver or further afield. Some of our singers today have sung with Laudate for many seasons, a few returning this year after a spell away. Miriam Davidson has been part of the Laudate Singers Society for 29 years! – as a cherished alto and for the last five years as manager. Catherine Crouch, Mark De Silva, Preston Lee, Maureen Nicholson, Chris Robinson, Adam Turpin are all singers today who have poured their energies and talents into the group for a long time. Probably no other singer has had a closer connection than Laura Kaario who, as my daughter, has attended every concert in the whole of our existence either as an audience member or a singer except for the couple of years she lived out of town. She, and my wife Anne, know best how much energy and time has gone into this choir administratively, emotionally and artistically – how fulfilling it is but how exhausting and often stressful it is as well. Hence my decision to retire.



Every singer, accompanist, manager, board member, donor, volunteer, and attendee has contributed to the success of this ensemble.

Today's program is filled with some of my favourite a cappella pieces from our past. Our composer-in-residence program has been an important part of Laudate Singers and I wish I could have included compositions by all of them. We are not hearing pieces by Kristopher Fulton, the team of Taymaz Saba and Andrei Diaconu, Eric Wettstein or Marco Del Rio, all of whom wrote some very special music for us.

Thank you for joining us today, the final solo Laudate Singers concert. I invite you all to the final concert on April 12th, "A French Affair" with Laudate Singers, Paragon Singers and orchestra. Please do plan to attend both the concert and the reception following it to reminisce and celebrate Laudate Singers Society's 30 years of choral exploration.

– Lars Kaario, Founder & Artistic Director

NOTES & TRANSLATIONS

Two Madrigals by Claudio Monteverdi

Laudate Singers sang the following two madrigals by Claudio Monteverdi at its 2019 Venetian Gold dinner and concert gala. We were thrilled with the reaction of the audience who often expect lighter and more familiar fare at these fun evenings. Monteverdi is definitely worthy of appreciation! His work marks the transition from Renaissance to Baroque music. He wrote a great deal of sacred music of various types, was groundbreaking in opera composition and wrote dozens of madrigals which were published in nine volumes over about 50 years. He was a violinist and singer as well as composer and became the director of music at San Marco in Venice before entering the priesthood himself in later years. He is buried at the Frari Church in Venice. The two poets, Tasso (16th century) and Petrarca (14th century) were both given the highest of honour in being called "king of poets" by their Popes although Tasso died a few days before the actual crowning.

Ecco mormorar l'onde – Claudio Monteverdi

Text by Torquato Tasso
from the Second Book of Madrigals 1590

Ecco mormorar l'onde
e tremolar le fronde
a l'aura mattutina e gli arboscelli,
e sovra i verdi rami i vaghi augelli
cantar soavemente
e rider l'oriente.
Ecco già l'alba appare
e si specchia nel mare
e rasserena il cielo
e imperla il dolce gelo,
e gli alti monti indora.
O bella e vaga Aurora,
L'aura è tua messaggera,
e tu de l'aura
ch'ogni arso cor ristaura.

Here are the waves murmuring
and the foliage quivering
at the morning breeze; and the shrubs,
and on the tree branches the pretty birds
sing softly;
and the Orient smiles.
Here dawn looms up
and is reflected in the sea
and brightens up the sky
and beads the sweet ice
and gilds the tall mountains.
O beautiful and vague dawn,
the gentle breeze is your herald
and you are the herald of the breeze
which refreshes every burnt heart.

Zefiro torna e 'l bel tempo rimena – Claudio Monteverdi

Text by Francesco Petrarca

From the Sixth Book of Madrigals 1614

Zephiro torna, e 'l bel tempo rimena,
e i fiori et l'erbe, sua dolce famiglia,
et garrir Progne et pianger Philomena,
et primavera candida et vermiglia.

Ridono i prati, e 'l ciel si rasserena;
Giove s'allegra di mirar sua figlia;
l'aria et l'acqua et la terra è d'amor piena;
ogni animal d'amar si riconsiglia.

Ma per me, lasso, tornano i piú gravi
sospiri, che del cor profondo tragge
quella ch'al ciel se ne portò le chiavi;

et cantar augelletti, et fiorir piagge,
e 'n belle donne honeste atti soavi
sono un deserto, et fere aspre et selvagge.

Zephyr returns and brings fair weather,
and the flowers and herbs, his sweet family,
and Procne singing and Philomela weeping,
and the white springtime, and the vermilion.

The meadows smile, and the skies grow clear:
Jupiter is joyful, gazing at his daughter:
the air and earth and water are filled with love:
every animal is reconciled to loving.

But to me, alas, there return the heaviest
sighs that she draws from the deepest heart,
who took the keys of it away to heaven:

and the song of little birds, and the flowering fields,
and the sweet, virtuous actions of women
are a wasteland to me, of bitter and savage creature.

Kyrie, from Mass for Double Choir – Frank Martin

Frank Martin may be considered Switzerland's greatest composer. He was a naturally musical child and while a youngster was deeply moved by a performance of Bach's St. Matthew Passion. The Mass for Double Choir written between 1922 and 1926 was not commissioned and he never sought to have it performed. It was given its first performance in 1962 by conductor Franz Brunnert who had asked to see the work. When asked why Martin had never sought to have the work performed he said that it was "an affair between God and himself". This Mass is without a doubt one of the greatest choral works of the twentieth century. The imaginative melodies, harmonies and rhythms are constructed creatively and seemingly effortlessly. The work has a sense of flow and naturalness as well as a sense of inevitability that belies the true genius of Frank Martin. Today we perform only the first movement. We sang the entire Mass at "Mass Enlightenment", a creative 2013 concert illuminating the Catholic Mass which figures so prominently in western choral music.

Kyrie eleison,
Christe eleison,
Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy.

Christus factus est – Anton Bruckner

This is a beautiful piece Laudate has never sung before but it deserves to be part of our history. We have sung a number of Bruckner's wonderful pieces in the past including at 2008's "Mysterium" program and in 2012 at "Organic Voices" with organist Denis Bédard at Holy Rosary Cathedral.

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens
usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis.
Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum et dedit illi nomen,
quod est super omne nomen.

Christ became obedient for us unto death,
even to the death, death on the cross.
Therefore God exalted Him and gave Him a name
which is above all names.

Lux Aurumque by Whitacre, Blackthorn by McGlynn

Both Lux Aurumque and Blackthorn were first performed by Laudate Singers with multi-talented Amy Stephen and bodhran player Michael Viens on the mostly Celtic program "Winter Light" in December 2006. These two wonderful pieces are also on our "Celtic Journey" CD. And we returned to these pieces in one of our amazing concerts with the vibrant young North Shore Celtic Ensemble under Claude Giguere's leadership.

Eric Whitacre gained an almost rock star status as a choral composer in the early 2000's. Laudate Singers has sung several of his pieces over the years. Lux Aurumque uses rich voluptuous harmonies that radiate warmth and attempt to personify the light of God. This began as a poem in English and was then translated into Latin – a bit of a switch!

Michael McGlynn specializes in writing music based on Irish Celtic traditions. McGlynn is a composer and director of the famous Anúna ensemble in Ireland who helped make Riverdance a worldwide sensation. We've sung many of McGlynn's pieces on Celtic programs and we were honoured when McGlynn wrote that our "Celtic Journey" CD was a "beautiful release....This is easily one of the finest available records in the Celtic genre of vocal music that I have ever heard".

Lux Aurumque – Eric Whitacre

Poem by Edward Esch, Latin trans. By C.A. Silvestri

Lux, calida gravisque pura velut aurum,
et canunt angeli molliter modo natum.

Light, warm and heavy as pure gold,
and the angels sing softly to the newborn babe.

Blackthorn – arr. Michael McGlynn

adapted 18th century Irish lyric

So many men think that I am theirs
When I sit with them, when I drink with them
Nothing compares to all that was shared
Between you and I, between you and I

So many men reach for the highest branch
To find the bitter fruit, to find the bitter fruit
Close within reach of the hand lies the sweetest berry
On the lowest branch, on the lowest branch

Snow falls on the mountain of Sliabh Uí Fhloinn
And my love is like sloe-blossom on the blackthorn

Snow falls on the mountain of Sliabh Uí Fhloinn
And my love is like sloe-blossom on the blackthorn

Only in Sleep – Ēriks Ešņvalds

A Latvian composer mostly in the choral genre, Ešņvalds has graced our programs several times in the last few years. Only in Sleep, Sara Teasdale's nostalgic vision of childhood re-experienced through dreams, is expressed in simple verse in regular metre, and Ešņvalds matches this in music of regular four-bar phrases. But infinitely subtle are the chord voicings; a change from humming to vocalise to spotlight a phrase here, or internal doublings to highlight a particular line in the texture there – all serve to sustain the freshness, and the soaring descants are achingly expressive. The soprano soloist heard at the opening returns at the close, lost in reverie, as her musing, florid arabesques float over one last pair of chordal oscillations, winding down to nothing. (notes: Gabriel Jackson composer)

Only in sleep I see their faces
Children I played with when I was a child
Louise comes back with her brown hair braided
Annie with ringlets warm and wild

Yet we played last night as long ago
And the doll-house stood at the turn of the stair

Only in sleep Time is forgotten –
What may have come to them, who can know?

The years had not sharpened their smooth round faces
I met their eyes and found them mild–
Do they, too, dream of me, I wonder
And for them am I too a child?

Laudate – Tyler Peterson

This was the first piece ever written for Laudate Singers. Laudate is medieval in sonority and texture and at the same time strikingly modern. Tyler Peterson, our first composer-in-residence, wrote it for the choir's inaugural concert on November 18th, 1995. He added two more pieces, O Vos Omnes and Cantate Domino, to make a set for "Magic of Motets" in October 1996. We have performed all of them several times. A few other favourites by Tyler which we have returned to include Snow Dance, Voltaj and Laudate dominum omnes gentes, and the 3-song set entitled signals.

Tyler is mainly a linguist, having done a great deal of research and academic teaching especially with regard to indigenous languages in Australia, USA and Canada.



Laudate (based on Psalm 113 & the Doxology)

Laudate! Laudate! Laudate Dominum!
Laudate pueri dominum
Sit nomen Domini benedictum ex hoc
nunc et usque in saeculum.
Quis sicut Dominus Deus noster, qui in altis habitat,
et humilia respicit in coelo et in terra?
Excelsus super omnes gentes Dominus,
et super coelos Gloria ejus.
Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum.

Praise! Praise! Praise the Lord!
O praise the Lord, ye children.
Blessed be the name of the Lord from
henceforth now and forever.
Who is like the Lord our God, who dwells on high,
and yet he considers the lowly in heaven and on earth?
The Lord is high above all nations,
his glory is above the heavens.
Glory be to the Father and Son and the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:
world without end.

the everlasting voices – Chris Sivak

In talking about the poem by W.B. Yeats on which this piece is based, Chris Sivak says, "What I find most inspiring about this gem by Yeats is the humble way in which he paints the ineffable and infinite. The poem is very soft-spoken, yet somehow manages to capture the depths it alludes to in only eight lines. I think it rings especially true because most of us only really allow ourselves to contemplate these ideas at our quietest moments." Chris illumines these ideas with lovely, soothing and gentle harmonic textures. The piece was premiered in 2016 at "Songs of the British Isles" and sung again at "Canadian Reflections" in 2022.



We are so pleased that Chris is still writing and has indeed written for many choirs. He has credited Laudate Singers' composer-in-residence program in which the composer is also a singer in the ensemble as being important to his success: "The model of having the composer embedded in the performing ensemble provides a liquid gold of education for a composer who is trying to refine their craft."

O sweet everlasting Voices, be still;
Go to the guards of the heavenly fold
And bid them wander obeying your will,
Flame under flame, till Time be no more;
Have you not heard that our hearts are old,
That you call in birds, in wind on the hill,
In shaken boughs, in tide on the shore?
O sweet everlasting Voices, be still.

Songs of Zephrus – Bruce Sled



The composer Bruce Sled says, "By unknown writers, the poetry for Songs of Zephrus comes from the 17th century, though I have not tried to reproduce the musical style of this period. I was drawn to these texts because of the directness of their emotional content. The first movement evokes a gentle and "aromaticke" wind, that is, the breath of the poet's love. The second is humorous; it berates a clumsy and negligent cupid and features madrigal-like word-painting. The third movement is meant to hang gracefully in its slowness, as if suspended in time." Bruce wrote a set of four movements which we premiered at "Choral Tapestry" in 2008 and we are singing the first three.

Bruce, a teacher in North Vancouver, sang with us and was composer-in-residence for several years. He was a master at arranging, too, and we called upon his services several times after his Laudate tenure. Perhaps his most universally known piece is Sparrow's Jig, originally written for Laudate and then revised for more popular use but many of his pieces have been sung widely.

I. Blowe there sweet Zephrus

Blowe there sweet Zephrus
where thou shalt find a breath
more Aromaticke than thy winde
when through the Arabian coast
perfumed it flies by spicye flames,
in which the Phoenix dyes.
Blowe there and ad unto thy sweetnes store,
such as when she is not shall be noe more.
Cauerne it vp,
keep that Soueraigne breath
to purifye the Aire in tyme of death.
Blowe there in language spoaken lowe
Thou gentle aire in secrett make hir knowe
how like the Phoenix I doe sacrificze,
my hart to hir inflamed by hir Eyes.

II. Cupid thou Art A sluggish boye

Cupid thou Art A sluggish boye
And doost neglect thy callinge
Thy bow and Arrowes are a Toye,

Thy Monarchie is fallinge
Unless thou doost recall thy selfe
and take thy tooles about thee
Thou wilt be scornd by Eury Elfe
and all the world will flout thee.
Rouze up thy spirits be still a God and play Arch fine
Let none escape thy shafte or Rod,
gains thee have spoke unkindly
Soe mayst thou chance to plague that hart,
That Curelly hath made myne smart.

III. Hange golden slepe upon hir Eye-lids faire

Hange golden slepe upon hir Eye-lids faire
And fill the aire with murmurs soft,
Lett all the winds be still
and to her will Fancies dreames be reddy to obey
Shapes bright and goodly sweet as daye,
Appeer unto hir and fill her heart with love and lovers Arte
And in her dreams lett the sweet form appeare;
And growe about her Necke she holds most deare.

Where the Earth is Quiet – Emile Deedes-Vincke

Emile wrote this piece for us during the heart of the pandemic when we couldn't gather in person for rehearsals or performances. Instead, we created a beautiful virtual video in which each singer filmed themselves singing in a chosen place of beauty. We are pleased to finally perform it to a live audience! The inspiration behind the text comes from poet Saphren Ma's love of nature, and more specifically, Gambier island, where she has many memories of incredible choir trips in the most beautiful scenery. Growing up in British Columbia, it is hard not to have a deep love of nature and all that it offers, and it is evident in her poetry. Where the forest meets the ocean and the mountains is the place where she feels most at home.



This poem works so well with Emile's talent for conveying messages of hope and peace with harmonious and soothing music. We wish Emile continued success in his chosen field – he has much to offer!

Here among the fragrant pine,
nestled between gleaming waters and towering mountain ranges
lies my heart.
Here, I am home.
Here where gold pours over canopies from the heavens above
where morning dew coats the Earth in silver pearls,
the air is still
and willows bend down to the waters of glass.
Here, I am home.
Here the stars return to the sky
like mist gently carried on the breeze.
Here, I am home.
Where eagles soar and ravens call to me,
when trees blush and melt to flames
my soul is reborn.
Here, I am home.
Here in the still, where the sky is wide and the Earth is quiet.
Here, I am home.

I am a fountain, You are my water – André Luiz Machado



Unlike most of our previous composers-in-residence who were just starting out on their compositional journeys, André was already an experienced composer, indeed an award-winning composer working in many genres, especially film. His time with Laudate Singers gave him the opportunity to explore the choral genre. This piece was premiered in 2022 in "Canadian Reflections".

The poet was one of the first significant women voices in the 15th century Ottoman Empire. André "expressed the deep meaning of this short 'Turkish' poem through its overall music concept. The cycle of life and our connection to the flow of this whole existence, as well as the circular dance of Sufism is expressed through a specific mirrored route on the circle of fifths. This road as expressed by the poem is neither right nor left, and encompasses all 24 basic chords with added colours and modal hexatonic scales on the main theme, which keeps flowing and surrounding around each perspective of the circle. Silence is also a part of our connection to our innermost, and its reverberation also connects different parts of this musical cycle. Its time signature also reflects a sacred number: 7/4. Most of the time I divided it to better express the music ideas and word stresses, and coincidentally, the way it is subdivided at the start of the main theme already reflects the route chosen on the circle."

I am a fountain, You are my water

Zeynep Hatun, lyrics, with English translation by Murat Yagan

I am a fountain, You are my water.
I flow from You to You.
I am an eye, You are my light.
I look from You to You.
You are neither my right nor my left.
You are my foot and my arm as well.
I am a traveler, You are my road.
I go from You to You.

Hastav Avar – Moshe Denburg

Moshe Denburg has been a friend of Laudate Singers for many years. A wonderful and accomplished composer who has traveled and studied worldwide, he was also founder of Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra (VICO) with which Laudate has had the privilege of singing many times. We commissioned Moshe in 2004 for this a cappella piece for our “Glory of Organ & Voice” concert, performing it again in 2008 at the same “Choral Tapestry” concert at which Bruce Sled’s Songs of Zephirus was premiered and then also at “North American Sound” in 2014.



Hastav Avar personifies the budding energies of spring with intense North African rhythmic ostinati. Layer upon layer of these ostinati create a rich organic texture that is reminiscent of the burst of growth at the very beginning of spring. Sweeping lyrical melodies interlace with dynamic rhythmic statements. The melodic and harmonic language has a distinct eastern Mediterranean flavour. The final section of the piece starts with the bass’s intense rhythmic line that is evocative of an African drum. Layers of ostinato are added to bring the piece to a fervent end. The text is biblical and in Hebrew.

Hastav Avar

From Song of Songs II: 11-12

Ki hine hastav avar, hageshem khalaf halakh lo.
Hanitsanim nir-u va-arets
eit hazamir highi-a;
V’kol hator nishma b’artseinu.

For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.
Flowers bedeck the earth,
the time of the singing of birds is come;
And the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land.

Michelle – Lennon & McCartney, arr. Gene Puerling

The Beatles first recorded this hit written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney in 1965. Gene Puerling arranged it in 1972 for The Singers Unlimited, a vocal group which he had formed a few years earlier primarily to do commercial jingles, after the break-up of his first group The Hi-Lo’s. The Singers Unlimited became a household word performing amazing jazz styled classics mostly written by Puerling. The complexity of the writing was one of the reasons they never performed live, only in the studio. Laudate first performed Michelle at a fundraising concert for North Vancouver’s Sage Transition House in 2010. Enjoy this jazzy setting of one of The Beatles creations – a little English, a little French, and all about love.

Michelle, ma belle
These are words that go together well
My Michelle
Michelle, ma belle
Sont les mots qui vont très bien ensemble
Très bien ensemble

I love you, I love you, I love you
That’s all I want to say
Until I find a way

I will say the only words I know that you’ll understand
I need you, I need you, I need you
I need to make you see
What you mean to me
Until I do, I’m hoping you will know what I mean

I will say the only words I know that you’ll understand
My Michelle

Butterfly – Mia Makaroff

Such a beautiful piece this is! We are thankful, for many reasons, that Lars Kaario and Kari Turunen became friends at the World Symposium on Choral Music in Vancouver in 1993. They performed a cultural exchange with Kari conducting Laudate Singers in a program of Scandinavian music in 2006 and Lars leading two of Kari’s choirs in Finland in a program of Canadian repertoire the next year. A return visit by Kari in 2017 for “Scandinavian Spring” included Butterfly and You Can’t Stop Me! by Mia Makaroff, a Finnish music educator, choral conductor and composer. As Kari said, “Her speciality is well-wrought choral music that finds its inspiration in rhythmic music (mostly ethno/pop). Her music has been made famous by the Finnish a cappella group Rajaton. Butterfly is an achingly beautiful song about love and the transience of life written with the lightest of touches.” The Vancouver choral community is now happy to have Kari Turunen as artistic director of Vancouver Chamber Choir.

Sweet as the sound of my newformed wings
I stretch them open, I let them dry
I haven’t seen this world before
But I’m excused, I’m a butterfly

Sweet as the touch of your newborn wings
We fly in circles, we play with the sun
We haven’t seen this world before
So fair, so bright, so blue the sky

Love me, love me on the leaves
Before we say goodbye
Love me, kiss me with the breeze
You will be my lullaby
Tomorrow I’ll die

Sweet is the wind as it gently blows
The day away. And the night time comes
Great are the wonders that silence shows
I fall asleep and I dream of the sun
And my butterfly

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 skillfully and passionately presents 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.



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.



1995-1996



2005-2006



2014-2015



2024-2025

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 & West Vancouver United Church, our rehearsal spaces and performance venue
- Rehearsal pianist Arthur Lo
- Linda Webster, promotion & soundbooth volunteer
- Front-of-house, set up and tear down volunteers – Darcy Gerhardt, Jan Moger, Lisemari Kordoski, Nancy Kennedy, Maurice & Helène Gauthier, Brendan Elder, Angelica Beissel
- EventLAB, livestream services
- Susana Valente, audio engineer
- Loren Davidson, web designer
- OK Dave, graphic designers
- 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 ALWAYS APPRECIATED!

It will take several months to wind down Laudate Singers Society at the end of our 2024-2025 season. Costs continue and your donation is still appreciated. Our 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, Vivienne Hall, Mark De Silva, Beshu Hu & Wendy Qianyan, Veronica Roenitz

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

Patron (\$500-\$999) – Jean Lee in memory of Ron Lee, William Marsh/Elaine Alpert

Benefactor (\$250-\$499) – Janice Moger, Anne Parker, Maris Pavelson, Emma Penney, Joy & John Russell

Supporter (\$100-\$249) – Dr Geoffrey Ainsworth, Janet Becker, BlueShore Financial in honour of Maria Porubanskaya, Abdorrahim Dahi, Jessica De Gaust, Darcy Gerhardt, Harley Gordon, Thomas Handley, Patricia Harrington, Martha Hazevoet, Connie Hubbs, Lars Kaario, Archie Kaario, Diane Kindree, Karl Koslowsky, Derwyn Lea, Wallace Lee, Ricarda McDonald, Michael Millard, Ainslie Mills, Evelyn Nodwell, Kendra Osenton, Julie Peters, Amy Pun, Sharon Lynn Quirke, Anu Rehtlane, Bertrand Revenaz, Clive Roberts, Cathleen Robinson, Christine Rozario, Rikke Rytter, Chris Sedergreen & Trudy Scheider, Todd Sorokan, Sandra Stevens, Eugene P Stirchak, Daniel and Esther Szarkowicz, Sophie Vander Cruyssen, Frances R Wilt, David Woodhouse

Contributor (up to \$99) – Tessa Ainsworth, Kim Aippersbach, Angelica Beissel, Karen Cohen, Tami Copland, Valerie Cox, Olivia De Silva, Mark Donnelly, Anne Duranceau, Åsa Eideloff, Brendan Elder, Abegael Fisher-Lang, Lorna Fortin, Helène Gauthier, Jasper Graham, Denise Howell, Laura Kaario, Janis McCaffrey, Milton McCrystal, Linda Moseley, Judah Parkes, Janet D Powell, Carole Renfer, Lucy Ruthven, Christine Sheptak, Sydney Sorokan, Theresa Wang, Mary Leigh Warden, Judith Wyckham

Donations can be made by phoning us with credit card, by mail with cheque to Laudate Singers Society or through [Canada Helps](#). As a registered charitable organization, donations are tax receiptable.

You make all the difference!

GRANTORS & SPONSORS

Laudate Singers Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of North Vancouver and the District of North Vancouver through the Arts & Culture Grants Program of the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission, the District of West Vancouver through their community grant programs, the Province of BC, and the Canada Council for the Arts. We are appreciative of sponsor Contact Printing and exclusive media sponsor, North Shore News.

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BRAHMS: *A German Requiem*

Saturday, April 5, 2025 — 7:30 pm

Brigid Coult, ROCA Chorus Conductor

Chloé Hurst, Soprano Soloist

Aaron Durand, Baritone Soloist

Fraserview MB Church

11295 Mellis Drive, Richmond

Tickets available now at the website below, or contact us to reserve.

This will be the second of two performances of this wonderful work. The first will take place in Vancouver's Orpheum Theatre on March 30, and will be directed by Vivaldi Chamber Choir's conductor, Edette Gagné.

roca@roca.ca — 604-276-2747

ROCA.CA



**SUNDAY
MARCH 30, 2025
7:00 PM**



Ein Deutesches Requiem *Brahms German Requiem*

Artistic Director **Edette Gagné**

In Collaboration with **The Richmond Orchestra and Choral Association**

THE ORPHEUM THEATRE

601 SMITHE ST. • VANCOUVER, BC

ADVANCED TICKETS

ADULTS \$50 • STUDENT/SENIORS \$40 • 12 & UNDER FREE

Everyone including children of any age requires a ticket

TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION AT **VIVALDICHOR.ORG**

Laudate Singers and its sister choir Paragon Singers invite you to our final big splash!

Lars Kaario directs the two choirs and Baroque Orchestra for some cherished works: Charpentier's exciting Te Deum, Duruflé's gorgeous Quatre Motets and one of the most loved choral/orchestral works of all time, Fauré's Requiem.

Then stay for a reception to celebrate our entire 30 seasons!



2024 / 25
SUNSET SEASON

A FRENCH AFFAIR

**FAURÉ
DURUFLÉ
CHARPENTIER**

**SATURDAY
APRIL 12 / 2025
3 PM**

**CONDUCTOR
LARS KAARIO**

**LAUDATE SINGERS,
PARAGON SINGERS,
SOLOISTS & ORCHESTRA**

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