

## Program Note

from director Leonard Enns

The final concert of our season is DaCapo's contribution to the marking of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. All the music is by living Canadian composers, and six of the works are winners or honourable mention works from DaCapo's annual NewWorks choral composition competition. Capping that set of works is this year's winning work by Ben Bolden, which we premiere on Saturday evening.

2017 is a celebration for the settler peoples, but likely also a year of mixed emotion for the first peoples of this land. Even as we celebrate this place of hope and promise – for refugees of oppression, for those pursuing career opportunities, for those reuniting families, and for others – we also recognize that this land, now claimed and named by settlers, had existed for centuries as a gift for indigenous people; the European rhetoric of ownership of land as personal property was at best puzzling, and at worst an abomination of a sacred unity of all of life.

We begin with works that reflect an indigenous perspective and that celebrate the land itself. The second part of the concert features works that reflect the experience of settlers, both of new refugees and of those for whom Canada is a long time and only home. Our "O Canada!" remains a mixed cry, of joy certainly, but also an acknowledgement that, as Gerard Manley Hopkins puts it, "...when Peace here does house / He comes with work to do..."

# O, Canada!

May 6, 2017



### **Program:**

*The Gift* - Russell Wallace

*Bawajigaywin* - Andrew Balfour

*Miigwetch* - Justin Lapierre (2016  
NewWorks honorable mention)

*Salish Song and Inuit Hunting Song* -  
Derek Healey

*Due North* - Stephen Chatman

*Nature's Calm* - Georgina Craig

*Black Riders* - Iman Habibi

*Deux poèmes* - Robert Ingari

***Harvest* - Benjamin Bolden**

**(premiere, 2016 NewWorks winner)**

*Le pont Mirabeau* - Jeff Enns

*Tabula Rasa* - Don Macdonald

*Night on a Starry Hill* - Matthew Emery

*Gloria* - Tobin Stokes