

10th Anniversary Season • www.dacapochamberchoir.ca



Directed by Leonard Enns

water

march 7th, 2009

Richot Mass
Glenn Buhr

Snowforms
Murray Schafer

Cloudburst
Eric Whitacre

General Admission – Adults \$20 • Students/Seniors \$15 • eveGO.org Tickets now available online!
All performances 8:00 pm at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Kitchener.

Program

Ave Maris Stella: Trond Kverno (b. 1945, Norway)

Organum (from Quartet No. 1): Glenn Buhr (b. 1954, Canada)

Snowforms: R. Murray Schafer (b. 1933, Canada)

Ritchot Mass: Glenn Buhr

~~~*intermission*~~~

*Cloudburst:* Eric Whitacre (b. 1970, USA)

*Miniwanka (The moments of water):* R. Murray Schafer

*Water Night:* Eric Whitacre

*Song for the Mira:* Allister MacGillivray (b. 1948, Canada)  
arr. Stuart Calvert

*The Water is Wide:* Ben Bolt Martin (arr.)

*Shenandoah:* arr. James Erb (b. 1926, USA)

*Please join us for an informal reception following the concert.*

## **Notes & Texts** (notes written by L. Enns)

The four elements—earth, water, fire and air—form the guiding program for our concert season this year. Tonight, water is our theme.

Our concert opens with a contemporary prayer to the ocean's star, and ends with several romantic folks songs inspired by rivers. This frame of prayer and nostalgia embraces a series of more probing works related to our theme. The destructive force of water is the inspiration for Buhr's *Ritchot Mass*, the spectacular power of water and also the mystery and comfort of its darker face are reflected in the two works by Whitacre, and the various transformations of water (as snow, rain, stream, fog and ocean) are at the heart of the two works by Schafer.

### ***Ave Maris Stella: Trond Kverno***

Kverno is a professor of church music, and composer of the same. Despite its liturgical motivation, this 1976 setting of an 11th century text is a fitting opening for our concert. While water is source of life, it is also source of a living for many who harvest the oceans. No surprise, then, that from Norway, with its 57,000 km of coastline, would come a prayer to the Virgin Mary as the ocean's star (maris stella).

Hail ocean's star,  
God's mother dear,  
Ever a virgin,  
And blest heavenly gate.

Receive that Ave  
From Gabriel's lips,  
Settle us in peace,  
Reversing Eva's name.

Loose their chains for the guilty,  
Bring forth Light for the blind:  
Dispel our woes,  
Ask good in all things for us.

Show thyself to be a Mother:  
May He receive through thee our prayers,  
Who for us was born and  
Designed to be Thy Son.

Virgin all excelling,  
Among all most meek,  
Set us free from sin,  
Make us meek and chaste.

Bestow life on us that is pure,  
Prepare a way that is safe  
In order that seeing Jesus,  
We may always rejoice.

Praise be to God the Father,  
To Christ Most High be praise,  
And to the Holy Spirit,  
To the Three be equal honor. Amen.

### ***Organum from String Quartet No. 1: Glenn Buhr***

Glenn Buhr teaches in the Faculty of Music at Wilfrid Laurier University. He has had commissions from numerous groups including the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and the Penderecki Quartet among a long list. He, along with conductor Bramwell Tovey, founded the highly successful Winnipeg New Music Festival in 1990, of which he was the director until 1996.

This is the second movement from Buhr's first string quartet, composed in 1992. The entire work, along with the *Ritchot Mass* (later on this program), is recorded on the CD *Learning to Fall* (1999).

## ***Snowforms: R. Murray Schafer***

In many ways, Schafer is Canada's quintessential composer. Some of his most compelling works draw inspiration from the Canadian experience — from northern landscape, from the measurement of ocean waves, from environmental issues, and from the social realities of contemporary life.

In his words:

In 1971 I flew the polar route from Europe to Vancouver over Greenland. Clear weather provided an excellent opportunity to study the forms of that spectacular and terrifying geography. ... Often on a winter day I have broken off from other work to study the snow from my farmhouse window, and it is the memory of these forms which has suggested most of the continuous horizon of "Snowforms".

Much of the music is hummed, and words that do occur are some of the many Inuit words for snow:

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| apingaut  | first snowfall |
| mauyk     | soft snow      |
| akelrorak | drifting snow  |
| pokaktok  | snow like salt |

## ***Ritchot Mass: Glenn Buhr***

Buhr has dedicated his Mass to those who lost their homes during the 1997 flood of the Red River Valley in Manitoba. The Mass was commissioned by the Elora Festival Singers, but the impulse of the work was personal and poignant. Buhr lost his home, in the municipality of Ritchot south of Winnipeg, in that '97 flood. He mentions that "grieving after the loss of our house, I wrote the Mass; the first words 'Lord of mercy' seemed to carry more meaning at that time than they ever had before." Buhr also notes that the version we are performing tonight (with the added strings) "was first performed outdoors in the ruins of the St. Norbert Monastery, which is where we lived while our house was being re-built."

Almost throughout the work one has a sense of water: water as the calm presence we hear in the string "aura" around the relatively traditional choral Kyrie; water as active, energetic and unrelenting (pouring in?) in the Gloria; water as mysterious and luminescent in the Sanctus (we experience this as though submerged while hearing that "holy, holy, holy"); and water as healing and calming, when after a traditional-sounding Agnus Dei the final "dona nobis pacem" embraces us with a shimmering and ethereal comfort.

## I. Kyrie

Kyrie eleison.  
Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

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

## II. Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Et in terra pax  
hominibus bona voluntatis.

Glory be to God in the highest.  
And on earth peace  
to those of good will.

Laudamus te, benedicimus te,  
adoramus te, glorificamus te.  
Gratias agimus tibi  
propter magnam gloriam tuam.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee,  
we worship Thee, we glorify Thee.  
We give thanks to Thee  
for Thy great glory.

Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,  
Deus Pater omnipotens.  
Domine Fili unigenite Iesu Christe.  
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,  
Filius Patris.

O Lord God, Heavenly King,  
God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son.  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
Son of the Father.

Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
suscipe deprecationem nostram.  
Qui sedes ad dextram Patris,  
miserere nobis.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy upon us.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,  
tu solus Dominus,  
tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe.  
Cum Sancto Spiritu  
in gloria Dei Patris.  
Amen

For thou only art holy,  
thou only art the Lord,  
thou only art the most high, Jesus Christ.  
With the Holy Ghost  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

### III. Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.  
Osanna in excelsis.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus qui venit  
In nomine Domini.  
Osanna in excelsis.

Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

### IV. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei,  
qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei.  
Dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God,  
you who take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Lamb of God.  
grant us peace.

## ***Cloudburst: Eric Whitacre***

The music of American composer Eric Whitacre is well known to our audiences. DaCapo has performed a number of his works, and has been honoured to serve as a workshop choir for Whitacre on one occasion. Whitacre's monumental composition, *When David Heard*, will be released in Fall 2009 on a new recording by DaCapo, entitled *ShadowLand*.

*Cloudburst* brings us into the heart of the storm, to the place where the promise of life lies, where we can "dream the dreams of a river seeking its course." This is near-violent, but life-giving at the same time; it is a summons to "return to the point of departure." The text is by Mexican poet Octavio Paz, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1990.

The rain...

Eyes of shadow-water,  
eyes of well-water,  
eyes of dream-water.

Blue suns, green whirlwinds,  
birdbeaks of light pecking open  
pomegranate stars.

But tell me, burnt earth, is there no water?

Only blood, only dust,  
only naked footsteps on the thorns?

The rain awakens...

We must sleep with open eyes,  
we must dream with our hands,  
we must dream the dreams of a river seeking its course,  
of the sun dreaming its worlds,  
we must dream aloud,  
we must sing till the song puts forth roots,  
trunk, branches, birds, stars,  
we must find the lost word,

and remember what the blood,  
the tides, the earth, and the body say,  
and return to the point of departure...

Octavio Paz (1914-1998); adapted by Eric Whitacre;  
translated by Lysander Kemp

### ***Miniwanka (The moments of water): R. Murray Schafer***

Schafer describes his composition as “an imitative piece describing the various states of water. The text consists of words for water, rain, stream, river, fog and ocean following North-American Indian languages: Dakota, Wappo, Crow, Chinook, Achumawi, Otchipwe, Salish, Natick, Klamath and Luiseno.” The score is largely graphic, with very little traditional notation.

### ***Water Night: Eric Whitacre***

Night with the eyes of a horse that trembles in the night,  
night with eyes of water in the field asleep  
is in your eyes, a horse that trembles,  
is in your eyes of secret water.

Eyes of shadow-water,  
eyes of well-water,  
eyes of dream-water.

Silence and solitude,  
two little animals moon-led,  
drink in your eyes,  
drink in those waters.

If you open your eyes,  
night opens, doors of musk,  
the secret kingdom of the water opens  
flowing from the center of night.

And if you close your eyes,  
a river fills you from within,  
flows forward, darkens you:  
night brings its wetness to beaches in your soul.

Octavio Paz; adapted by Eric Whitacre;  
translated by Muriel Rykeyser

## *Song for the Mira: Allister MacGillivray, arr. Stuart Calvert*

MacGillivray has memorialized the Mira River in Cape Breton, NS in this widely performed and much-loved contemporary Celtic-style folk song, written in 1973.

Out on the Mira on warm afternoons  
Old men go fishin' with black line and spoons.  
And if they catch nothin' they never complain,  
I wish I was with them again.

As boys in their boats call to girls on the shore,  
Teasin' the ones that they really adore,  
And into the evening the courting begins  
I wish I was with them again.

Chorus:

Can you imagine a piece of the universe  
More fit for princes and kings?  
I'll give you ten of your cities  
For Marion Bridge and the pleasure it brings

Out on the Mira on soft summer nights  
Bonfires blaze to the children's delight;  
They dance round the flames singin' songs with their friends.  
I wish I was with them again

And over the ashes the stories are told  
Of witches and werewolves and Oak Island gold.  
The stars on the river they sparkle and spin.  
I wish I was with them again.

Chorus

Out on the Mira the people are kind.  
They'll treat you to home-brew and help you unwind.  
And if you come broken they'll see that you mend.  
I wish I was with them again.

Now I'll conclude with a wish you go well.  
Sweet be your dreams, may your happiness swell.  
I'll leave you here, for my journey begins.  
I'm going to be with them again.

### *The Water is Wide: arr. Ben Bolt-Martin*

This folk song, from the British Isles (claims are made for English, Scottish, and even Irish origins, so we'll stay neutral on that one!) has been in existence since at least 1600.

### *Shenandoah: arr. James Erb*

O Shenandoah, I long to see you,  
And hear your rolling river,  
O Shenandoah, I long to see you,  
'Way, we're bound away  
Across the wide Missouri.

I long to see your smiling valley,  
And hear your rolling river,  
I long to see your smiling valley,  
'Way, we're bound away,  
Across the wide Missouri.

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## The Artists

### DaCapo Chamber Choir

This season marks the 10th Anniversary of the DaCapo Chamber Choir. The choir was founded in 1998 and is dedicated to exploring unaccompanied music, primarily of the 20th Century and later. Our performance season consists of three annual concerts in Kitchener-Waterloo: one in the Fall around Remembrance Day, a mid-winter, and a spring concert.

Last season, DaCapo also performed as guest artists for the closing concert of the Royal Canadian College of Organists' National Convention (July), as part of Brock University's Encore Professional Concert series (March) and in the concert entitled "Twilight" with Mark Sirett's Cantabile Choirs (April). DaCapo was recently named a semi-finalist in both the contemporary and chamber choir categories of Choral 2008, CBC's National Radio-Canada Competition for Amateur Choirs.

This year, the choir is recording its second CD, entitled *ShadowLand*, with an anticipated release date of November 2009.

## Choir Members

### *Soprano:*

Cher Farrell  
Sara Martin  
Julie Surian  
Melane VanDerSluis  
Jennie Wiebe

### *Tenor:*

Brian Black  
Thomas Brown  
Christopher Everett  
Rich Hrytzak  
Michael Lee-Poy  
Stephen Preece

### *Alto:*

Shauna Leis  
Janice Maust Hedrick  
Susan Schwartzentruber  
Deborah Seabrook  
Sara Wahl

### *Bass:*

Gordon Burnett  
Jeff Enns  
Stephen Horst  
Bill Labron  
Kevin Martin  
Matt Oxley

To inquire about auditions, email [auditions@dacapochamberchoir.ca](mailto:auditions@dacapochamberchoir.ca)

## **Leonard Enns, director**

DaCapo's founding director, Leonard Enns, holds a PhD in Music Theory from Northwestern University University, Chicago (with a dissertation on the choral music of Harry Somers), a Master of Music in choral conducting (supervised by the late Margaret Hillis), and undergraduate degrees from Wilfrid Laurier University, and Canadian Mennonite University.

Enns is on the faculty of the University of Waterloo Music Department at Conrad Grebel University College, and is active as composer, conductor, and adjudicator. Recent recordings of his works include the 2006 CD *NorthWord*, recorded by the Elora Festival Singers, and the 2007 CD *Hammer and Wind*, featuring his chamber music for instruments and vocal solo. His music appears on various other CDs.

Two recent compositions, *I saw eternity* (commissioned by the Esoterics Chamber Choir, Seattle) and *This amazing day* (finalist in the Vancouver Bach Choir composition competition), will appear on DaCapo's new CD next fall, along with *Nocturne* (commissioned by the Guelph Spring Festival). Next weekend Enns will be in Edmonton for the premiere of *The only face I want is yours*, commissioned by Edmonton's Da Camera Singers; in a year (March 6, 2010), Bob Chilcott (guest conductor) will lead the Cantabile Youth Singers of Kingston in the premiere of *This Day*, commissioned for that choir. His music is published by Boosey & Hawkes, E.C. Schirmer, Gordon V Thompson/Warner Chappell, Gentry and Kitchener's Kelman Hall Publications.

## **Henry Zielinski, violin**

Henry lives in London, Ontario, teaches and plays with Orchestra London. Activity with the Stratford Festival for 20 years has included numerous solo and chamber recitals, recordings, onstage appearance in Festival productions as well as orchestral duties. Free time is taken up with speed skating and banjo picking; both undertaken with equal abandon.

## **Karen Zielinski, violin**

Karen has lived in London, Ontario for untold years. Surrounded on all sides by treble clef people, husband, daughter, and father all violinists, she manages a base pursuit now and then: drawing, writing, and a new bass recorder. She teaches privately and plays in Orchestra London and The Stratford Festival.

### **Elsbeth Thomson, viola**

Elsbeth plays viola with the Hamilton Philharmonic orchestra. She is also a busy freelance violist around Ontario and has recently played with The Sound of Music and the Canadian Idol orchestra in Toronto.

### **Ben Bolt-Martin, cello**

Ben lives in Kitchener, near Victoria Park. He plays with the Stratford Festival and teaches Instrumental Chamber Ensembles at the University of Waterloo. He is featured on the Juno-nominated *Notes toward a poem that can never be written* by Timothy Corlis.

### **Sarah Flatt, piano**

Sarah completed her Honours Bachelor of Music degree at Wilfrid Laurier University in 2004 where she studied piano with Jamie Parker and Anya Alexeyev. She then went on to receive her Bachelor of Education at The University of Western Ontario. Sarah currently teaches music within the Waterloo Region District School Board, and piano at her home studio. She has been a member of the DaCapo Chamber Choir since 2004.

### **Jerry Johns, flute**

Jerry has played for four years with the University of Waterloo's orchestra. Having graduated from UW's Electrical Engineering program, he is currently taking flute lessons with Kevin O'Donnell of the KW Symphony. He is also currently involved with the chamber groups at Conrad Grebel University College and is bringing some relatively unknown chamber pieces to concert this term.

### **Percussionists:**

Ioanna Malton (RCSS)

Mary-Emily McCullough (RCSS)

Wilfrid Laurier University handbell ringers

## Juno nomination

The DaCapo Chamber Choir is thrilled to announce that the piece *Notes towards a poem that can never be written* by local composer (and former DaCapo singer) Timothy Corlis has been nominated for a Juno, in the category Classical Composition of the Year.

The DaCapo Chamber Choir commissioned this piece (with funding from the Ontario Arts Council) and premiered it in March 2006. It is also the central piece on the *Notes Toward* recording – which is available online at CD Baby and is **on sale at tonight's concert**.

This recording of the nominated composition features the DaCapo Chamber Choir, cellist Ben Bolt-Martin, narrator Bruce Dow, and soprano soloist Sheila Dietrich. It was recorded under the Chestnut Hall Music label.

The Juno will be awarded on March 29th and will air on CTV.

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## **Acknowledgements**

DaCapo logo, poster, and program design – Heather Lee  
Choir Manager – Sara Martin

## **Board of Directors:**

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For details, please email [info@dacapochamberchoir.ca](mailto:info@dacapochamberchoir.ca).

Tonight's reception provided by:



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### fire & air

Saturday May 9, 2009, 8:00pm

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Tickets for this concert are available online at [www.dacapochamberchoir.ca](http://www.dacapochamberchoir.ca) or call 519.725.7549.