

Inspire - Transform - Enchanting
Resounding Joy
From the Beginning
DaCapo
Chamber Choir
Imagination

directed by Leonard Enns

Equinox

equality between day and night

Featuring selections from DaCapo's upcoming debut CD, "Still," available Summer 2004.

Saturday March 13, 2004 8:00pm

St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Kitchener

Program

no noise nor silence, but one equal music...

- *Antiphon ~ Barrie Cabena
- *Silent Dawn ~ Tim Corlis
- *Ave Maris Stella ~ Trond Kverno

no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light...

- The Sun Beames of Thy Face ~ Leonard Enns
- *The Sunne of Grace ~ Leonard Enns
- O Ignis Spiritus ~ Imant Raminsh

intermission

no fears nor hopes... but one equal eternity

- Litany ~ Jeff Enns
- Ella Sunlight ~ John Estacio
- soloists, Sara Martin and Shannon Beynon
- *Lux Aeterna ~ Edward Elgar

in the habitation of thy glory...

- O Nata Lux ~ William Mathias
- *All Other Love ~ Leonard Enns
- Bring Us O Lord God ~ William Harris

no ends nor beginnings...

- *The Evening Primrose ~ Benjamin Britten
- Prayer Before Sleep ~ Sid Robinovitch

Please join us for an informal reception, following the program.

* denotes selection appearing on DaCapo's debut CD "*Still*" to be released summer 2004.

NOTES & TEXTS

Antiphon ~ Barrie Cabena (b. 1933)

Cabena, who was a member of the Music Faculty at Wilfrid Laurier University until his retirement, now serves as artistic advisor to the Guelph Spring Festival, and continues to maintain an enviable pace of music composition.

The Lord is in his holy temple:
let all the earth keep silence before him.
Be still and know that I am God.

Silent Dawn ~ Tim Corlis (b. 1972)

Both text and music for Silent Dawn were inspired by the experience of a winter morning, just before sunrise. In the midst of such moments, time seems to disappear – silence is overwhelming. I hope that the music recreates something of this timelessness, but not as a description of that winter morning. Instead, the music should act as a frame for the silence that we share at its edges. ~ T.C. (Corlis is currently a graduate student in music composition at the University of Toronto.)

Still, still this dawn.
All with winter's hush chill and new born snow.
Be still this dawn
and cradle up this weary place with gentle light.
Still, still this dawn.
Still, though all I have known falls into
shades of night.
Be still my soul and love unfading know.

Ave Maris Stella ~ Trond Kverno (b. 1945)

Norwegian composer Trond Kverno's motet is a setting of an 11th century hymn text.

Ave maris stella,
Dei Mater alma,
Atque sempar virgo,
Felix caeli portas.

*Hail ocean's star,
God's mother dear,
Likewise ever a virgin,
Blest heavenly gate.*

Sumens illud Ave Gabrielis ore.
Funda nos in pace,
Mutans Hevae nomen.

*Receiving that Ave from Gabriel's lips,
Settle us in peace,
Reversing Eva's name.*

Solve vincla reis,
Profer lumen caecis,
Mala nostro pelle,
Bona cuncta posce.

*Loose their chains for the guilty,
Bring forth Light for the blind:
Woes of ours dispel,
good in all things ask for us.*

Monstra te esse matrem,
Sumat per te preces,
Qui pro nobis natus,
Tulit esse tuus.

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

Virgo singularis,
Inter omnes mitis,
Nos culpis solutos,
Mites fac et custos.

*Virgin all excelling,
Among all most meek,
Us from sin set free,
Meek make thou and chaste.*

Vitam praesta puram,
Iter para tutum,
Ut videntes Jesum,
Semper collaetemur.

*Life on us bestow that is pure,
A way prepare that is safe
In order that seeing Jesus,
Always we may rejoice.*

Sit laus Deo Patri
Cummo Christo decus,
Spiritui Sancto
Tribus honor unus. Amen.

*Be praise to God the Father,
To Most High Christ be praise,
And to the Spirit Holy,
To the Three be honor equally. Amen.*

Ave, gratia plena!
Dominus tecum!
Benedicta tu in mulieribus!

*Hail (Mary), full of grace!
The Lord is with thee!
Blessed art thou amongst women!*

The Sun Beames of Thy Face ~ Leonard Enns (b. 1948)

The text of this work is one of the wonderful Psalm paraphrases by Mary Sidney, Countess of Pembroke (1561-1621). The motet be part of an upcoming Canadian Music Centre Centrediscs recording of choral music by Enns.

My heart prepar'd, prepared is my heart
To spredd thy prayse
With tuned layes
Wake my tongue my lute awake
Thou my Harp the consort make
My self will beare a part.

My self the first when Morning shall appeare
My voice and string
So will thee sing
That this Earthly globe and all
Treading on this earthly ball
By praysing notes shall heere.

For God, my only God, Thy gracious love
Is mounted farr
Above each starr
Thy unchanged verity
Hev'nly wings do lift as high
As clouds have roome to move.

As high as highest heav'ns can give thee place
O Lord ascend
And thence extend
With most bright, most glorious show
Over all the Earth below
The sun beames of thy Face.

– paraphrase of Psalm 108:1-5

The Sunne of Grace ~ Leonard Enns

This composition is one of six pieces for choir, soprano solo, and harp (for four pieces) which constitute a set bearing the same title as this particular movement, The Sunne of Grace. The entire work will be included on the DaCapo CD, "Still". A contemporary English version of the medieval lyrics is given here.

The sunne of grace him shined in
On a day when it was morwe,
When our Lord God boren was
Withoute wem or sorwe.

*The sun of grace shone
in the morning
when our Lord God was born
without sin or sorrow.*

The sunne of grace him shined in
On a day when it was prime,
When our Lord God boren was,
So well he knew his time.

*The sun of grace shone
at sunrise
when our Lord God was born
so well he knew his time.*

The sunne of grace hime shined in
On a day when it was noon,
When our Lord God boren was,
And on the roode doon.

*The sun of grace shone
at noon,
when our Lord God was born
and was hung on the cross.*

The sunne of grace hime shined in
On a day when it was undern,
When our Lord God boren was,
And to the herte stungen.

*The sun of grace shone
in the evening,
when our Lord God was born
and was pierced to the heart.*

O Ignis Spiritus ~ Imant Raminsh (b. 1943)

Raminsh, known largely as a leading Canadian composer, is also an avid naturalist, geologist and biologist. What better way for a composer to express those interests than through the setting of a text such as Hildegard von Bingen's O ignis spiritus.

O ignis spiritus paracliti,
vita vitae omnis creaturae,
sanctus es vivificando formas.

*O fire of the Holy Spirit,
Life of the life of all creatures,
You are sanctified by giving life
to forms.*

O spiraculum sanctitatis,
o ignis caritatis,
o dulcis gustus in pectoribus
et in fusio cordium
in bono odore virtutum!

*O source of sanctity,
O fire of charity
O sweet breath in our breasts
and flood of our hearts
in the good odour of virtues!*

De te nubes fluunt,
aether volat,
lapides humorem habent,
aquae rivulos educunt,
et terra viriditatem sudat.

*From you the clouds
have their flow,
the air its flight,
the minerals their temper,
the waters their streams,
and the earth its greenness.*

Unde laus tibi sit
qui es sonus laudis,
et gaudium vitae,
spes et honor fortissimus
dans premia lucis.

*Wherefore praise be to you,
who are the sound of praise
and joy of life,
highest hope and greatest honour,
bestowing on us
overwhelming light.*

– Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)

Litany ~ Jeff Enns (b. 1972)

Jeff Enns is a native of Waterloo. His compositions – many commissions from local performers and choirs – are increasingly performed nationally and internationally. Another anthem of his, The Call, will be included on the upcoming DaCapo CD. Tonight is the premiere performance of Litany.

Drop, drop, slow tears,
And bathe those beauteous feet,
Which brought from heav'n
The news and Prince of Peace.

Cease not, wet tears,
His mercies to entreat;
To cry for vengeance:
Sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods
Drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let His eye see
Sin, but through my tears.

– Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)

Ella sunlight ~ John Estacio (b. 1966)

Possibly Canada's best known composer of his generation, John Estacio is currently resident composer with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and Calgary Opera. Tonight we perform the final song of his Four Eulogies, which DaCapo presented in its entirety in the fall of 2001.

Canadian poet, Val Brandt, has commented on her text: I know a woman whose only child died at the age of four. Her grief was so complete that she could never be consoled. Her friends told me it was as if there was no one there for them to console. She had been a mother. That was how she defined herself. Then one day her child was gone ... and, in a sense, so was she. What could anyone say? "I know how you feel?" "I understand?"

Ella sunlight. Ella sky.
Ella water. Ella air.
Ella movement. Ella life.
Ella music. Ella dance.
Ella wonder. Ella joy.

Why, after I taught you all your colours
would you paint everything gray?

Why, just when you were learning to run
would the whole world come to a halt?

Why, after you tumbled with fairies
and stumbled with elves
and fell into a giggle
that filled every corner of my soul
would you take away my faith
my whimsy
my god?

(Pie Jesu Domine
Dona eis requiem)

Ella sunlight. Ella sky.
Ella water. Ella air.

Where you sent here just to say goodbye?

Ella whisper. Ella sigh.
Ella shimmer. Ella hush.
Ella why.

– Val Brandt

Lux Aeterna ~ Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Lux Aeterna is a choral arrangement of “Nimrod,” the ninth of the fourteen orchestral Enigma Variations by Edward Elgar, premiered in 1899. The ravishing music of the “Nimrod” variation, arguably the all-time favourite of the set, has been arranged for choir by the British film and theater composer, John Cameron, who added the “lux aeterna” text from the mass for the dead.

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,
cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,
quia pius es.

*Let light eternal shine on them, O Lord,
with thy saints forever,
for thou art merciful.*

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis,
cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,
quia pius es.

*Rest eternal grant them, O Lord,
let perpetual light shine on them,
with thy saints forever,
for thou art merciful.*

O Nata Lux ~ William Matthias (1934-1992)

O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
dignare clemens supplicum
laudes preces que sumere.
Qui carne quondam contegi
dignatus es pro perditis.
Nos membra confer effici,
tui beati corporis.

*O (thou) born light of light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
mercifully deem worthy and accept
the praises and prayers of your supplicants.
Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost ones,
grant us to be made members
of your holy body.*

All Other Love ~ Leonard Enns

This is another excerpted movement from The Sunne of Grace, using an anonymous medieval text.

All other love is like the moone
That waxeth and waneth as flowr in plain,
As flowr that faireth and fallweth soone,
As day that clereth and endth in rain.

*All other love is like the moon
that waxes and wanes like a flower in the meadow,
like a flower that blossoms and quickly fades,
or a clear day that clears but ends in rain.*

All other love beginth by blisse,
In wop and wo makth his ending;
No love there n'is that evre habbe lisse,
But what areste in Heavene King,

*All other love begins with bliss,
yet ends in weeping and sorrow;
no love gives eternal joy,
except that which rests in the King of Heaven.*

Whose love is fresh and evre greene,
And evre full without wanyng;
His love sweeteth withoute teene,
His love is endless and aring.

*Whose love is fresh and ever green,
and ever full without growing pale;
his love sweetens without grief,
his love is endless and eternal.*

All other love I flee for Thee;
Tell me where Thou list.
In Marie mild and free I shall be found,
Ac more, ac more in Crist.

*I leave all other love for you;
yell me where you lie.
"In Mary mild and pure I shall be found,
but more, much more in Christ."*

Bring Us, O Lord God ~ William Harris (1873-1973)

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening
into the house and gate of heaven,
to enter into that gate and dwell in that house,
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling,
but one equal light;
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;
no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity;
in the habitations of thy glory and dominion,
world without end. Amen.

– John Donne (1572-1631)

The Evening Primrose ~ Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

The Evening Primrose is from a set of Five Flower Songs which Britten wrote in 1950 as a 25th wedding anniversary gift for friends.

When once the sun sinks in the west,
And dewdrops pearl the evening's breast;
Almost as pale as moonbeams are,
Or its companionable star,
The evening primrose opes anew
Its delicate blossoms to the dew

And, hermit-like, shunning the light,
Wastes its fair bloom upon the night;
Who, blindfold to its fond caresses,
Knows the beauty he possesses.

Thus it blooms on while night is by;
When day looks out with open eye,
'Bashed at the gaze it cannot shun,
It faints and withers and is gone.

– John Clare (1793-1864)

Prayer Before Sleep ~ Sid Robinovitch (b. 1942)

This evening prayer is from The Talmud Suite by Winnipeg composer Sid Robinovitch.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, ruler of the universe,
 who weigh down my eyes with bonds of sleep
 and my eyelids with slumber.

May it be your will, Lord my God, and God of my ancestors,
 to lay me down in peace and raise me up in peace.

Do not let my thoughts, or evil dreams, or sinful fancies alarm me.

Grant that [the fruit of] my bed be perfect before You.

Give light to my eyes lest I sink into the sleep of death,

 for it is You who illuminate the pupil of the eye.

Blessed are You, O Lord, whose glory illuminates all the world.

ARTISTS

DaCapo Chamber Choir

DaCapo is a community chamber choir now in its fifth season, dedicated to exploring unaccompanied music, mainly of the 20th Century.

Our performance season consists of three annual concerts in Kitchener-Waterloo: once in the fall around Remembrance Day, a mid-winter and a spring concert. In addition, the choir performs on an ad hoc basis at other events.

DaCapo Choir Members

Soprano:

Shannon Beynon
Sara Fretz
Sara Martin
Stacey VanderMeer
Jennie Wiebe

Tenor:

Thomas Brown
Joel Brubacher
J. Alexander Clarke
Tim Corlis
Ron Schweitzer

Alto:

Angie Koch
Shauna Leis
Janice Maust Hedrick
Susan Schwartzentruber
Sara Wahl

Bass:

Donny Cheung
Alan Martin
Kevin Martin
Kevin Smith
Dave Switzer

Music Director, Leonard Enns

Conductor and composer Leonard Enns has been a member of the Music faculty at Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo since 1977, where he teaches music theory and composition, conducting, and directs the College Chapel Choir. He is the founding director of the DaCapo Chamber Choir.

Various CDs including Enns' music have been released in recent years by groups such as The Toronto Children's Chorus, The Winnipeg Singers, Phil Ens and the Faith and Life Male Chorus, The Menno Singers, and others. A forthcoming Canadian Music *Centrediscs* recording of his music is in the planning stages.

Exciting news from DaCapo...

CBC Choral Competition Quarter-Finalists!

DaCapo is a Quarter Finalist in CBC Radio's Competition for Amateur Choirs in the Contemporary Music category. Having won at the Regional level, we now move on to the national quarter-finals and are waiting to hear if we will advance to the national semi-finals. The semi-finals will be broadcast on CBC Radio.

"Still" soon to be released!

Our debut CD, "Still", is scheduled to be released early this summer. To pre-order your copy of the CD, at a special pre-release price, be sure to submit your order using the enclosed form during intermission or following tonight's concert.

DaCapo receives charitable status!

The DaCapo Chamber Choir is now officially designated as a Charitable Organization. If you would like to make a donation to the choir, we are able to issue charitable receipts for contributions over \$10. We are seeking corporate and individual sponsors.

DaCapo thanks the following donors and sponsors:

- **John Schiedel** ~ venue sponsor for tonight's concert
- **Conrad Grebel University College** ~ for providing the space for DaCapo's weekly rehearsals, and for funding support for the recording of our first CD
- **Waterloo Regional Arts Foundation** ~ for the funding support for the recording of our first CD
- **Gowling, Strathy & Henderson** ~ for donating their services in DaCapo's process of incorporation and charitable status designation

Acknowledgements

DaCapo logo, poster, and program design – Heather Lee

Upcoming Performances

March 27 & 28, Renaissance Singers. Info: jschattman@hotmail.com

April 18 & 25, Wellington Winds. Info: 669-4409

April 23, Menno Singers. Info: 576-9853

May 8, Waterloo Chamber Players. Info: 885-5697

DaCapo Chamber Choir, Sunday May 30, 2004, 8:30 pm
~ *Sound in the Land* music festival, First United Church, Waterloo

DaCapo Chamber Choir, Saturday November 13, 2004, 8:00 pm
– St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Kitchener

To inquire about auditions, or for more information e-mail DaCapo
at dacapo@canada.com or visit our Web site at
<http://grebel.uwaterloo.ca/dacapo>