

# Program Note

from director Leonard Enns

The three concerts of our 2016/17 season take Canada's 150th birthday as goal. We consider *Who* we are as a people (November), *What* this is as a land (March), and *How* we recognize the various partners in this celebration (May).

This November, it's "Who." We are (or are we?) a people among whom others may find safety, hope and home. Our title work, *Threshold of Night*, stands at the midpoint of the program, posing the question: how do we encounter those who stand at the door. Do we greet newcomers with welcome or fear? In poet Kathleen Raine's words, "Are you a stranger, out in the storm, or has my enemy found me out...?" Always, it seems, when we meet those in need, there are those hands stretched in welcome to the stranger, and those held behind the back in fear and reluctance. Still, many strangers have found a home here, despite conflicting responses of welcome and shunning. For the seekers, sorrow and pain is tempered by determination, and the threshold of night may be the verge of (new) being.

Our Winnipeg guests, organist Lottie Enns-Braun and saxophonist Allen Harrington are here fresh from a concert in Ottawa a week ago. Their new CD, *Vanishing Point*, to be officially released November 18, includes the Augusta Read Thomas works on our concert, as well as the CD title work by Leonard Enns. Pre-release copies will be on sale at our concerts. The duo, formed in 2005, have been previous guest of DaCapo, in November 2010, and we are pleased to be sharing a concert with them again.

The 16/17 season marks a beginning of a new educational program of the choir, connecting us with regional high schools, thanks to the initial encouragement of Josh Hill, music department head at Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute. This year we are partnering with KCI, and its music teachers Jennifer Spaulding and Steve Surian. Along with some joint rehearsal time, we will share in their school concert on December 15, and they in turn will partner with us on one piece on our May concert. Today you will experience a small example of that relationship at the end of the Paul Mealor *Ubi Caritas*.

This concert also marks the world premiere *Shadows* by Canadian composer James Rolfe. We are pleased to continue to introduce new and important Canadian works, as is this one, to our community.



## Program:

Michael McGlynn - *O Ignis Spiritus*

James Rolfe - *Shadows* (world premiere)

Michael McGlynn - *From nowhere to nowhere* (#3 from *Visions*)

Patrick Murray - *The Echo* (2011 NewWorks winner)

Michael McGlynn - *Dorchadas* [Darkness] (#2 from *Visions*)

Tarik O'Regan - *Threshold of Night*

Sven David Sandström - *Ah Sunflower*

Augusta Read Thomas - *Angel Tears* and *Earth Prayers*

Paul Mealor - *Ubi Caritas*

Leonard Enns - *I will lift up mine eyes*

Jonathan Dove - *Seek Him that Maketh the Seven Stars*