

Inspire - Transform - Enchant
From the Beginning
Rebounding Joy
The spirit, it's here
Imagination
DaCapo
Chamber Choir

GIVING IDEAS VOICE
DIRECTED BY LEONARD ENNS

Restoration

Sat., May 13 - 7:30pm

Sun., May 14 - 3:00pm

Trillium Lutheran, Waterloo

Featuring a DaCapo alumni choir and the premiere
of *A Great Tide of Love* by director Leonard Enns.

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Program

Leonard Enns	<i>The Hymn of the Cherubim</i>
Don Macdonald	<i>Tabula Rasa</i>
Caroline Shaw	<i>And the Swallow</i>
Leonard Enns	<i>A Great Tide of Love</i> (premiere) <i>I. When Music Sounds</i> <i>II. The Farmer is King</i> <i>III. Foothills</i> <i>IV. Carry Me Over the Deep</i>

~ intermission ~

David Archer	<i>In Sweet Music</i>
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DaCapo and alumni singers:

Randall Thompson <i>accompanied by Sarah Flatt</i>	<i>Frostiana</i> (excerpts) <i>I. The Road Not Taken</i> <i>II. Choose Something Like a Star</i>
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Matthew Emery	<i>Night on a Starry Hill</i>
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Mikhail Glinka	<i>The Hymn of the Cherubim</i>
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*We'd love to visit with you after the concert...
please join us to chat in the **reception area!***

Overview

Our March concert, "Winding Toward Peace," featured Jeffrey Van's *A Procession Winding Around Me* based on Civil War poetry by Walt Whitman. The current concert theme continues the theme of peace and civility, but at a largely personal level. This direction is driven by the current state of politics, and by a world in which truth seems more and more to be a negotiable concept. Is there an honourable path to be found through the realities that confront us? Can we rise above mundane preoccupations and find the "better angels of our nature"? Our framing compositions, both setting the same Orthodox Cherubic Hymn text, address the question directly, bidding us to "lay aside all cares of this world" and take on a more elevated perspective, perhaps to become like a blank slate with an endless potential for good.

The text of the second piece, *Tabula Rasa* by Don Macdonald, is by his wife Allison Girvan. Girvan gives us the voice of a parent speaking to a child of exactly such a limitless canvass of life, of the freedom to become the very best version of humanity.

And the Swallow by Caroline Shaw expresses the journey toward restoration through a gentle, halting, and fragmented approach to ancient words from the psalms: "they pass through the valley of bakka (valley of tears), they make it a place of springs." This transformation is represented musically through textless passages; the choir simply hums, perhaps representing the inexpressible journey that can lead to that "place of springs."

The featured work is the premiere of my composition, *A Great Tide of Love*, commissioned in loving memory of Ron Brown, who died in January 2022. The work was commissioned by his son Thom and Thom's husband Mike. Ron was a model of decency, had a deep love for others, and lived in thanks and respect for nature. He was my friend. We shared three formative years in our college days. We were a "folk duo" of sorts in those years, and though our lives took us to separate parts of Canada for nearly six decades, the link remained strong, and I was happy when Ron and his wife moved to Waterloo a few years ago, to be near some of their children and grandchildren. Sadly, after years of living with cancer, Ron died shortly after that move.

The second half of the concert continues our main theme and is also a celebration of music itself. We begin it with David Archer's setting of

a text from Shakespeare's *Henry VIII* claiming that "in sweet music is such art (that) ...care and grief ...fall asleep, or hearing, die." Archer's composition is one of a group of winning compositions that DaCapo has premiered, works that have come to us through DaCapo's annual NewWorks Competition. Today's concert features three of these: Don Macdonald's *Tabula Rasa* (in the first half); Archer's *In Sweet Music*, and Matthew Emery's *Night on a Starry Hill* (both in the second half).

To enlarge this celebration of music, we have invited local DaCapo "alumni" to join us – singers who have been with us at some point over the past quarter century, re-joining us for the final part of this concert. The theme of choice and restoration of humanity continues in this final section, particularly in the two pieces from Randall Thompson's *Frostiana*, both dealing with the challenge of making the honourable choice when faced with alternatives.

As we anticipate DaCapo's 25th anniversary concert this coming November, we want to express our thanks to you, our listeners and supporters, who are the reason for our existence, whose loyalty has supported us, and who --- particularly through the past three years – have given us the encouragement to continue.

Thank you, and welcome!
Leonard Enns

Text & Notes

***The Hymn of the Cherubim* – Leonard Enns (2002)**

Let us who mystically represent the Cherubim
and who sing the thrice-holy hymn
to the life-creating Trinity,
now lay aside all cares of this life,
that we may receive the King of All,
who comes invisibly upborne
by the angelic host.
Alleluia

~ from *The Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*

***Tabula Rasa* – Don Macdonald (2010)**

(Winner of the inaugural DaCapo NewWorks choral composition competition)

Macdonald has written of his composition that “the first few chords to me evoked a simple image of a mother and child. A quiet moment when the mother sees, as she has never seen, the potential of the precious life she holds in her arms. A silent acknowledgement of her child and every child as a ‘blank slate’ with seemingly limitless potential.” The question we face is: what will be written on this tabula rasa? And who will do the writing?

En mis brazos, respira
vida sin limites
luz del dia, noche oscura
duerme, sueño,
 resto con seguridad
Con su corazón su alma
escucha y sabe esta verdad
Dentro de ti hay futuros ilimitados
si le dan la libertad;
libertad de crecer
libertad de aprender
libertad de tocar
libertad de sentir
libertad de imaginarse
libertad de volar
libertad de adorar
libertad de ser amado

~ Allison Girvan
(the composer's spouse)

*In my arms, breathe.
Life without limits.
Light of day, dark night.
Sleep, dream,
 rest in safety.
With your heart, your soul,
listen and know this truth:
within you are boundless futures
if you are given freedom;
freedom to grow,
freedom to learn,
freedom to touch ,
freedom to feel,
freedom to imagine,
freedom to fly,
freedom to love,
freedom to be loved*

***And the Swallow* – Caroline Shaw (2017)**

Shaw, at home across a wide spectrum of styles from rap to opera, describes herself as a “musician who writes music” rather than as a “composer,” and is often one of the performers in her own music. A decade ago, at the age of 30, she was the youngest ever winner of the Pulitzer prize for music. *And the Swallow* is a wonderful example of her surprising, creative, yet superbly engaging compositional style.

Shaw says she was thinking of the Syrian refugee crisis as she composed the work; “There’s a yearning for a home that feels very relevant today. The second verse is: ‘The sparrow found a house and the swallow her nest, where she may raise her young’ which is just a beautiful image of a bird trying to keep her children safe – people trying to keep their family safe.”

how beloved is your dwelling place...
my soul yearns, faints, my heart and my flesh cry out...
the sparrow found a house and the swallow her nest where she
may raise her young...
they pass through the valley of bakka, they make it a place of
springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.
~ from Psalm 84

***A Great Tide of Love* – Leonard Enns (2023)**

As mentioned in the overview note, *A Great Tide of Love* is a tribute of love, in memory of Ron Brown, from his family; it is also my tribute to my friend. The four songs in the cycle celebrate some of Ron’s characteristics and values: 1. love of music; 2. a quirky sense of humour; 3. love of nature; and 4. grateful and gentle acceptance of life’s physical ending.

I. When Music Sounds

When music sounds, gone is the earth I know,
And all her lovely things even more lovely grow;
Her flowers in vision flame, her forest trees
Lift burdened branches, stilled with ecstasies.
~ Walter de la Mare

II. *The Farmer is King*

The farmer is king of his packer and plough,
Of his harrows and binders and breakers,
He is lord of the pig, and Czar of the cow
On his hundred and sixty-odd acres.

It's joy again, for spreading time has found me,
 Within my own paternal field and fold,
It's spreading time, and once more all around me,
 The air is rich, and fields are flecked with gold;
 From yonder heap the busy sparrow flutters,
 To other heaps, and all the heaps surveys:
And from the dump the barnyard chicken mutters,
 And rooster lifts his solemn voice in praise.

The farmer is monarch in high estate
Of his barn and his backhouse and byre,
And all the buildings behind the gate
Of his two-odd miles of barbed wire.

Alas, that winter's heavy cloak should ever
 Enfold this scene in dreary white, and bring
The golden spots that mark our high endeavour,
 Beneath its blighted snowbanks until spring:
But spring will come, and what today we harrow,
 Will reappear, for spring makes all things new,
 The shovel and the stone-boat and the barrow,
And what we spread will once more come to view.

The farmer is king, oh, the farmer is king,
And except for his wife and his daughter,
Who boss him around, he runs the thing,
Come drought, come hell or high water.

~ "The Farmer is King" and "Spreading Time" from
Sarah Binks by Paul Hiebert

III. Foothills

I will lift up mine eyes to the hills.

~ Psalm 12, v. 1

Foothills to the Rockies lifting
Brown, and blue, and green,
Warm Alberta sunlight drifting
Over leagues between.

That's the country of the ranges,
Plain and prairie land,
And the God who never changes
Holds it in His hand.

~ Pauline Johnson, "The Cattle Country"

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in
Now and for evermore.

~ Psalm 12, v. 8

IV. Carry Me Over the Deep

Make me a gull,
oh fierce and beautiful wind;
carry me soaring over the spitting face of the deep.
Then when I am weary
and you have spent your breath,
float me down to the rock.
With gulls and salt spray let me sleep.

~ David Waltner-Toews,
used by permission of the poet

In Sweet Music – David Archer (2015)
(winner of the 2015 NewWorks competition)

Orpheus with his lute made trees,
And the mountain tops that freeze,
Bow themselves when he did sing:
To his music plants and flowers
Ever sprung; as sun and showers
There had made a lasting spring.
Everything that heard him play,
Even the billows of the sea,
Hung their heads, and then lay by.
In sweet music is such art,
Killing care and grief of heart
Fall asleep, or hearing, die.

~ William Shakespeare, *Henry VIII*

Frostiana (two excerpts) – Randall Thompson (1959)
accompanied by Sarah Flatt

I. The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

~ Robert Frost

II. Choose Something Like a Star

O Star (the fairest one in sight),
We grant your loftiness the right
To some obscurity of cloud –
It will not do to say of night,
Since dark is what brings out your light.
Some mystery becomes the proud.
But to be wholly taciturn
In your reserve is not allowed.
Say something to us we can learn
By heart and when alone repeat.
Say something! And it says "I burn."
But say with what degree of heat.
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.
Use language we can comprehend.
Tell us what elements you blend.
It gives us strangely little aid,
But does tell something in the end.
And steadfast as Keats' Eremite,
Not even stooping from its sphere,
It asks a little of us here.
It asks of us a certain height,
So when at times the mob is swayed
To carry praise or blame too far,
We may choose something like a star
To stay our minds on and be staid.

~ Robert Frost

Night on a Starry Hill – Matthew Emery (2014)

(winner of the 2014 NewWorks competition)

Give me a few more hours to pass
With the mellow flower of the elm-bough falling,
And then no more than the lonely grass
And the birds calling.

Give me a few more days to keep
With a little love and a little sorrow,
And then the dawn in the skies of sleep
And a clear to-morrow.

Give me a few more years to fill
With a little work and a little lending,
And then the night on a starry hill
And the road's ending.

~ Marjorie Pickthall

The Hymn of the Cherubim – Mikhail Glinka (1804)

Иже херувимы тайно образующе,
и Животворящей Троицѣ трисвятую пѣснь припѣвающе,
Всякое нынѣ житейское отложимъ попечение.
Яко да Царя всѣхъ подыместъ,
ангельскими невидимо дориносима чинми.
Аллилуіа.

*We who mystically represent the Cherubim,
and who sing to the Life-Giving Trinity the thrice-holy hymn,
let us now lay aside all earthly cares
that we may receive the King of all,
escorted invisibly by the angelic orders.
Alleluia.*

The Artists

Leonard Enns, Artistic Director

Composer and conductor Leonard Enns is the founding director of the DaCapo Chamber Choir and Professor Emeritus of Music at Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo. He has conducted DaCapo continuously since its first concert in November 1998, and looks forward to celebrating the choir's first 25 years in concert on November 11&12, 2023.

In addition to his work as conductor, Enns is a Juno-nominated composer. After today's premiere of *A Great Tide of Love* he will attend the premiere of a new version of his *Ten Thousand Rivers of Oil*, performed by the Victoria Choral Society together with Ballet Victoria and the strings of the Victoria Symphony, a week from now. Then, on July 10, DaCapo will premiere his choral suite, *The Place of Memory*, together with cellist Miriam Stewart Kroecker (see details on the back cover). A week later his *Countless Gifts*, for treble, youth, and adult choirs, soprano and bass soloists, and audience, will be premiered in Winnipeg.

DaCapo Chamber Choir

The DaCapo Chamber Choir was founded in 1998 in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario under the direction of Leonard Enns. The mission of the choir is to promote the best of contemporary choral music through public performance and recordings, including the intentional championing of music of Canadian and local composers. The choir's annual national NewWorks choral competition for Canadian composers aids in establishing a vibrant and vital presence for recent and emerging Canadian choral music.

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. In addition, the choir performs on an ad hoc basis at other events.

The choir has released three CDs: *NewWorks* (2019); the award-winning *ShadowLand* (winner of the 2010 ACCC's National Choral Recording of the Year award, including the Juno-nominated *Nocturne* by Leonard Enns); and *Still* (2004).

For more information about the choir, including photos, sound clips, the NewWorks choral composition competition, and more, visit our web site at www.dacapochamberchoir.ca or join our eList by emailing info@dacapochamberchoir.ca.

We're Social!

For behind-the-scenes photos, rehearsal insights, and online savings, become a Facebook fan of DaCapo or follow us on Twitter @DaCapoChoir. Find our YouTube channel by searching DaCapo Chamber Choir.

Choir Members

Soprano

Sara Fretz
Maria Geleynse
Marlys Neufeldt
Sydney O'Brien
Stephanie Rozek*
Janelle Santi
Caroline Schmidt
Diana Skzydlo*
Jennifer Spaulding*

Tenor

Joel Becker*
Brian Black
Thom Brown*
Gord Burnett*
Curtis Dueck
Marcus Kramer
Nathan Martin
Stephen Preece
Art Winter*
Jeff Wyngaarden

**alumni singer*

Alto

Theresa Bauer
Sarah Flatt*
Shauna Leis*
Sara Martin
Janice Maust Hedrick
Nathalie Nasr
Susan Schwartzentruber
Laura Shantz*
Rebecca Steinmann*
Jennie Wiebe

Bass

Daniel Cockayne
Keith Hagerman*
Mike Hook
Reuben Janzen Martin*
Daniel King
Mike Lepock
Luke MacLean
Alan Martin*
Kevin Smith*

Acknowledgements

Graphic Design – Heather Lee, www.leedesigns.ca

Choir Manager – Sara Martin

Board of Directors:

Rachel Harder
Lawrence McNaught
Tom Nagy
Dave Switzer

DaCapo thanks the following organizations and individuals:



PeaceWorks – for hosting our Web site
TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS



Conrad Grebel
University College

We are grateful to Conrad Grebel University College for providing rehearsal space in its beautiful Chapel, where DaCapo was shaped as a child of the Grebel Chapel Choir, and which continues to be our rehearsal home.

There is a strong historic and ideological relationship between DaCapo and Grebel. Artistic director, and Grebel Professor Emeritus, Leonard Enns directed the Grebel Chapel Choir for 33 years; out of this grew the DaCapo Chamber Choir, beginning in 1998 with a dozen alumni.

DaCapo has grown to extend beyond its Grebel origins, but organic connections remain. Even after nearly 20 years, over half the singers are Grebel alumni, and our music continues to be grounded in spiritual and healing convictions shared with the College.

Donors (since January 2022)

DaCapo thanks all of our donors, including the many individuals and organizations who wished to remain anonymous.



Paul Born & Marlene Epp
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You, too, can become a DaCapo season supporter. Simply visit our web site at www.dacapo-chamberchoir.ca and click on Support.

Upcoming DaCapo Performances...

THE PLACE OF MEMORY **July 10, 2023 – 7:30pm** **Knox Presbyterian Church**



Part of the Mennonite Historical Society's "Russlaender 100" events; a commemoration of the migration of 21,000 Mennonites from the former Soviet Union to Canada in the 1920s, featuring the premiere of Leonard Enns' *The Place of Memory*, together with guest cellist Miriam Stewart Kroeker, commissioned by the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario.

Tickets: By donation, at the door

Photo: Arrival of Mennonite immigrants from former Soviet Union, in Waterloo. Image courtesy Mennonite Archives of Ontario.

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