

Inspired - Transformed - Enchanted
Resounding Joy
From the Beginning
Chamber Choir
spirit, Water
Program on

GIVING IDEAS VOICE
DIRECTED BY LEONARD ENNS

Enchant

February 28, 2026 - 7:30pm

March 1, 2026 - 3:00pm

Trillium Lutheran, 22 Willow St., Waterloo

with pianist
Catherine Robertson

featuring **Grandmother Moon**
by Eleanor Daley

and **The Passing of the Year**
by Jonathan Dove



Program

Moonset – Jeff Enns

O Bide in that Country (premiere) – **Kento Stratford**
soloists: Marlys Neufeldt, Nathan Martin

Sonata no. 14, "Moonlight Sonata," first movement –
Ludwig van Beethoven
pianist, Catherine Robertson

Grandmother Moon – Eleanor Daley

Constellation – Frank Ticheli

1. From the Sea
soloist: Janelle Santi
2. The Falling Star
3. There Will Be Stars

~intermission~

The Passing of the Year – **Jonathan Dove**
with pianist, Catherine Robertson

1. Invocation
2. The Narrow Bud Opens
soloists: Caroline Schmidt, Curtis Dueck
3. Answer July
4. Hot Sun, Cool Fire
5. Ah, Sun-flower!
6. Adieu! Farewell Earth's Bliss
7. Ring Out, Wild Bells

Noche de Lluvia – **Sid Robinovitch**
with pianist, Catherine Robertson

We'd love to visit with you after the concert...
please join us to chat in the reception area!

Overview

Enchantment, awe, and wonder revisit us again and again when we step into a quiet starry night, away from the blurring light and dulling noise of the city. Moments such as these lie behind the program choices for the first half of today's concert. We look out to the moon, then into the universe beyond, and are amazed. There we find quiet and comfort, renewal for another day.

Today's program also has us looking at the earth around us and beneath our feet. While seemingly impossible challenges and injustices threaten to overwhelm us, perhaps, for a moment, we can leave the noise of the daily news and remember the enchanted world with which we have been gifted. In Dylan Thomas' words from today's premiere:

*The country is holy: O bide in that country kind,
Know the green good,
Under the prayer-wheeling moon in the rosy wood
Be shielded by chant and flower and gay may you
Lie in grace.*

Welcome!

Most of us are here today as settlers on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee peoples. Both our venue today and our choir's rehearsal space is built on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted in 1784 to the Six Nations that includes 10 kilometres on each side of the Grand River from its source in Dundalk to its mouth at Lake Erie.

Notes & Texts

Program notes written by Leonard Enns

Moonset (2008) – **Jeff Enns** (Canada)

Jeff Enns composed *Moonset* was composed in memory of infant Nathan Krueger Wiebe. Nathan's mother, Jennie, a founding member of the DaCapo Chamber Choir, was a pillar in the group until a tragic automobile accident took her own life a year ago. She died, along with her daughter Zoe. Even now, what lives on as a gift to us is the pure delight she shared in the beauty and surprise of the world around and beyond her, along with her enthusiastic and infectious love of music. *Moonset*, originally composed in memory of her son Nathan, is performed today also in memory of Jennie and her daughter Zoe.

Idles the night wind through the dreaming firs,
That waking murmurs low,
As some lost melody returning stirs
The love of long ago;
And through the far, cool distance, zephyr fanned.
The moon is sinking into shadow-land.

The troubled night-bird, calling plaintively,
Wanders on restless wing;
The cedars, chanting vespers to the sea,
Await its answering,
That comes in wash of waves along the strand,
The while the moon slips into shadow-land.

O! soft responsive voices of the night
I join your minstrelsy,
And call across the fading silver light
As something calls to me;
I may not all your meaning understand,
But I have touched your soul in shadow-land.

~ *Pauline Johnson (Canada)*

O Bide in that Country (2019) – **Kento Stratford** (Canada)

Stratford has excerpted his lyrics from Dylan Thomas' extended and complex poem, *In Country Sleep*. While the entire poem oscillates between comfort and warning, Stratford bases his composition on this short reassuring section:

The country is holy: O bide in that country kind,
Know the green good,
Under the prayer-wheeling moon in the rosy wood
Be shielded by chant and flower and gay may you
Lie in grace.

~ *Dylan Thomas (from In Country Sleep)*

Grandmother Moon (2006) – **Eleanor Daley** (Canada)

Daley has given Canada and the world many beautiful compositions, among them her *Requiem* which DaCapo performed in November. Among many other shorter compositions of hers, *Grandmother Moon* is a touchingly gentle setting of the words of Mi'kmaq poet Mary Louise Martin.

She looks into and beyond my soul,
The lacy cedar boughs creating her shadows,
Cedar ones weave design of midnight canvas.

She looks into and beyond my soul,
She a powerful sacred hoop of full light,
Simplicity against the ebony blues and blacks
of night sky land and crystal star people.

She looks into and beyond my soul,
Her round face of translucent beauty and light,
Quiet powers speak out in her name...

We'lalin. ("thank you" in Mi'kmaq)

~ *Mary Louise Martin (Canada)*

Constellation (2009) – Frank Ticheli (USA)

In his note for this choral cycle, Ticheli writes: *I chose...the image of stars... as a powerful symbol of eternal beauty and peace. Feelings of longing and melancholy...are poignantly balanced by feelings of hope and an underlying sense of awe and wonder. Enchantment indeed!*

1. From the sea

For us no starlight stilled the April fields,
No birds awoke in darkling trees for us,
Yet where we walked the city's street that night
Felt in our feet the singing fire of spring,
And in our path we left a trail of light
Soft as the phosphorescence of the sea
When night submerges in the vessel's wake
A heaven of unborn evanescent stars.

~ Sara Teasdale (USA)

2. The falling star

I saw a star slide down the sky,
Blinding the north as it went by,
Too burning and too quick to hold,
Too lovely to be bought or sold,
Good only to make wishes on
And then forever to be gone.

~ Sara Teasdale (USA)

3. There will be stars

There will be stars over the place forever;
Though the house we loved and the street we loved are lost,
Every time the earth circles her orbit
On the night the autumn equinox is crossed,
Two stars we knew, poised on the peak of midnight
Will reach their zenith; stillness will be deep;
There will be stars over the place forever,
There will be stars forever, while we sleep

~ Sara Teasdale (USA)

The Passing of the Year (2000) – **Jonathan Dove** (England)

Dove's choral cycle bursts open with three movements on texts by Blake and Dickinson. These are followed by two introspective and probing movements (with texts by Peele and Blake), and then by a penitent sixth movement (text by Nashe). In the final seventh movement the cycle returns to the opening bell-like music with Tennyson's words, ending with call to "Ring in the thousand years of peace." Taken as a whole, the cycle is a three-part composition, flowing from celebration (1-3) to regret (4-6), and leading to a closing plea for peace (7).

1. Invocation

O Earth, O Earth, return!
~ *William Blake (England)*

2. The narrow bud opens her beauties to the sun

The narrow bud opens her beauties to
The sun, and love runs in her thrilling veins;
Blossoms hang round the brows of Morning, and
Flourish down the bright cheek of modest Eve,
Till clust'ring Summer breaks forth into singing,
And feather'd clouds strew flowers round her head.

The spirits of the air live in the smells
Of fruit; and Joy, with pinions light, roves round
The gardens, or sits singing in the trees.
~ *William Blake (England)*

Sumer is icumen in
Lhude sing cuccu
~ *anonymous, 13th c. (England)*

3. Answer July

Answer July—
Where is the Bee—
Where is the Blush—
Where is the Hay?

Ah, said July—
Where is the Seed—
Where is the Bud—
Where is the May—
Answer Thee—Me—

Nay—said the May—
Show me the Snow—
Show me the Bells—
Show me the Jay!

Quibbled the Jay—
Where be the Maize—
Where be the Haze—
Where be the Bur?
Here—said the Year—
~ *Emily Dickinson (USA)*

4. Hot sun, cool fire

Hot sun, cool fire, tempered with sweet air,
Black shade, fair nurse, shadow my white hair;
Shine sun; burn, fire; breathe, air, and ease me;
Black shade, fair nurse, shroud me and please me:
Shadow, my sweet nurse, keep me from burning,
Make not my glad cause, cause of [my] mourning.

Let not my beauty's fire
Inflame unstaid desire,
Nor pierce any bright eye
That wandereth lightly.
~ *George Peele (England)*

5. Ah, Sun-flower!

Ah Sun-flower! weary of time,
Who countest the steps of the Sun,
Seeking after that sweet golden clime
Where the traveler's journey is done;

Where the Youth pined away with desire,
And the pale Virgin shrouded in snow,
Arise from their graves and aspire,
Where my Sun-flower wishes to go.

~ *William Blake (England)*

6. Adieu! Farewell earth's bliss!

Adieu, farewell earth's bliss,
This world uncertain is;
Fond are life's lustful joys,
Death proves them all but toys,
None from his darts can fly:
I am sick, I must die.

Lord, have mercy on us!

Rich men, trust not in wealth,
Gold cannot buy you health;
Physic himself must fade;
All things to end are made;
The plague full swift goes by:
I am sick, I must die.

Lord, have mercy on us!

Beauty is but a flower
Which wrinkles will devour;
Brightness falls from the air,
Queens have died young and fair,
Dust hath closed Helen's eye:
I am sick, I must die.

Lord, have mercy on us!

~ *Thomas Nashe (England)*

7. Ring out, wild bells

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

~ *Alfred Lord Tennyson (England)*

Noche de Lluvia (Rainy Night) (2000) – Sid Robinovitch (Canada)

Espera, no te duermas.
Quédate atento a lo que dice
el viento
Y a lo que dice el agua que golpea
Con sus dedos menudos
en los vidrios.

*Wait, do not sleep.
Listen to what the wind
is saying
And to what the water says tapping
With little fingers upon
the window panes.*

Todo mi corazón se vuelve oídos
Para escuchar a la hechizada hermana,
Que ha dormido en el cielo,
Que ha visto el sol,
Y baja ahora, elástica y alegre.

*All my heart is listening
To hear the enchanted sister
Who has slept in the sky,
Who has seen the sun,
And now comes down, buoyant and gay.*

Escuchemos el ritmo de la lluvia.
Apoya entre mis senos
Tu frente taciturna.
Yo sentiré el latir de tus do seines,
Palpitantes y tibias.
Cómo estará de alegre
el trigo ondeante!

*Let us listen to the rhythm of the rain.
Cradle between my breasts
Your silent forehead.
I will feel the beating of your temples,
Throbbing and warm.
How gay the waving wheat
will be!*

Con qué avidez se exponjará la hierba!
Cuántos diamantes colgarán ahora
Del ramaje profundo de los pinos!
Espera, no te duermas. Esta noche
Somos los dos un mundo,
Aislado por el viento y por la lluvia
Entre las cuencas tibias de una alcoba.

*How eagerly the grass will thrive!
What diamonds will cluster now
In the deep branches of the pines!
Wait, do not sleep. Tonight
The two of us are a world,
Isolated by wind and rain
In the warmth of a bedroom.*

~ Juana de Ibarbourou
(Uruguay)

The Artists

Catherine Robertson, pianist

Catherine Robertson has had a long and versatile music career. She has distinguished herself as a pianist, conductor, singer and teacher. For over thirty years Catherine has been a piano, choral and instrumental adjudicator at music festivals across Canada. She received a B. Mus. Piano Performance (Queen's University), Piano Licentiate LRAM (Royal Academy of Music, London, UK) and her M. Mus. Piano Performance (Western University) degrees.

Catherine taught piano and piano literature courses at Conrad Grebel University College for twenty-one years. She conducted the College Chapel Choir for four years. Prior to this, she was a collaborative pianist at Wilfrid Laurier University, and taught piano at Redeemer University College. More recently she has taught and examined at the University of Guelph.

Wide-ranging musical interests and experiences are evident in Catherine's many collaborations. She regularly performs with DaCapo Chamber Choir. Her dedication to new music is also seen in recordings, including piano and chamber compositions of Leonard Enns and Michael Purves-Smith. A love of early music was shown over the fifteen years in which Catherine was music director and sang with TACTUS Vocal Ensemble. This professional octet specialized in music of the European Renaissance. Catherine sang as a consort member with the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir, and had a long association with the Elora Singers as pianist, singer and flautist. Catherine regularly performed for, and served on the board of the Guelph Connections concert series, promoting musical excellence in the city in which she resides.

Leonard Enns, Artistic Director

Leonard Enns is the founding director of the DaCapo Chamber Choir and Professor Emeritus of Music at Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo. Also active as composer, he recently completed third work in his environmental trilogy (the first two being *Ten Thousand Rivers of Oil* and *This Thirsty Land*). The new composition, *Taiga*, a double commission from Victoria Choral Society and University of Guelph choirs, is scheduled for performances in 2026/27 concert season by each choir, preceded by DaCapo's own preview performance in May of this year.

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 NewWorks choral composition competition for Canadian composers (which ran for over a decade) aided in establishing a vibrant and vital presence for recent and emerging Canadian choral music.

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, and more, visit our web site at www.dacapochoamberchoir.ca or join our eList by emailing info@dacapochoamberchoir.ca.

We're Social!

For behind-the-scenes photos, rehearsal insights, and online savings, follow us on one of our socials!

Choir Members

Soprano

Sara Fretz
Maria Geleynse
Cathleen Leone
Marlys Neufeldt
Sydney O'Brien
Janelle Santi

Tenor

Brian Black
Kevin Bui
Curtis Dueck
Marcus Kramer
Nathan Martin

Alto

Theresa Bauer
Sarah Flatt
Sara Martin
Alex Meinzinger
Nathalie Nasr
Caroline Schmidt
Susan Schwartzentruber

Bass

Dan Cockayne
Chengxian (Eric) Jin
Evan Rueb
Kento Stratford
Tavis Weber
Lukas Winter

Acknowledgements

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DaCapo thanks the following organizations and individuals:



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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 more than 25 years, a number of the singers are Grebel alumni, and our music continues to be grounded in spiritual and healing convictions shared with the College.

THE ELORA SINGERS
2025-2026 SEASON

Soup and Song: Motets Through the Centuries

Saturday, Feb. 7 at 2:30PM
St. John's Anglican Church, Elora



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



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SUNDAY MARCH 22 · 4 PM

TRILLIUM LUTHERAN CHURCH, 22 WILLOW ST., WATERLOO

**Come and learn songs of LOVE, RESISTANCE and HOPE
in support of our neighbours near and far.**

This event is a collaboration between a number of churches, schools, and community choirs.

Upcoming Concerts



Saturday May 2, 7:30pm

Sunday May 3, 3:00pm

Featuring oboist Jim Mason, pianist Catherine Robertson, cellist Miriam Stewart-Kroeker and a string quartet

Program: *This Fragile Web* ~ Christine Donkin (choir, piano & violin)
Everything (is vanishing) ~ Rodney Sharman
Another Spring ~ Tom Nazziola (choir & piano)
Taiga ~ Leonard Enns (choir, string quartet & oboe)
The Rose ~ Ola Gjeilo