



PROFESSIONAL CORO CHAMBER CANADA CHOIR

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Pro Coro Canada acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

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Pro Coro Canada #309, 10113 - 104 Street NW Edmonton, AB, T5J 1A1 780.420.1247 procoro.ca

Program

Michael Zaugg, Conductor Rev. Dr. Allan Effa, Introduction & Narration

> Music by Joby Talbot Libretto by Robert Dickinson

I. Roncesvalles

'Now about that time'

II. Burgos

'Innkeepers cheat us'

III. Leon

'We have walked in Jakobsland'

IV. Santiago

'The road climbs through changing land'

Performers

<u>Soprano</u>

Dawn Bailey Annette Martens Sarah Schaub Petra Shields Katrina Smith Jessica Wagner

<u>Alto</u>

Jane Berry Sable Chan Kimberley Denis Jessica Robertson Adrienne Sitko Amy Voyer

<u>Tenor</u>

Ian Bannerman Nathan Bootsma Tyson Kerr Charles Stolte Andrew Whiteside Anthony Wynne

Bass

Andrew Bortz
Graeme Climie
Rob Curtis
Michael Kurschat
Christian Maxfield
Adam Robertson

Pro Coro Canada



Founded in 1981 by Canadian Michel Marc Gervais, Pro Coro Canada has performed at the Toronto International Choral Festival (1994 and 2002), the 1988 Olympic Arts Festival, and Canadian Voices (2003 landmark series of concerts celebrating 50 years of professional choral singing in Canada and R. Murray Schafer's 70th year). The choir has commissioned dozens of new works, the majority by Canadian composers. Pro Coro Canada produced the second Edmonton International Choral Festival from May 30th to June 2nd, 2019.

The twenty-four voices of Pro Coro Canada have been shaped by some of the finest choral conductors in the world, including Gervais, Anders Eby (Sweden), Søren Hansen (Denmark), Agnes Grossmann (Austria), and Richard Sparks (USA). Guest conductors have included Frieder Bernius, Eric Ericson, Gary Graden, Maria Guinand, Bo Holten, Elmer Iseler, Tönu Kaljuste, Diane Loomer, Leonard Ratzlaff, Ward Swingle, Ivars Taurins, Jon Washburn, and Erik Westberg. In early 2012 Michael Zaugg was announced as Pro Coro's new Artistic Director and Principal Conductor.

Under the direction of Swiss-born Michael Zaugg, the choir is widely recognized as one of this country's finest. The choir is particularly proud of its composer-in-residence program with internationally renowned composer Alberto Grau; its appointment as Faculty in the Choral Art program at the Banff Centre; and critically acclaimed tours of four provinces. Pro Coro Canada believes strongly in community partnerships and over the past few years has collaborated with many community choirs as well as mentoring young choral artists through their Emerging Artist Program.



Our Conductor

Michael Zaugg: Managing & Artistic Director and Principal Conductor

Swiss-native Michael Zaugg has distinguished himself as an innovative and versatile conductor, pedagogue and clinician. Currently in his 11th season as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the professional chamber choir Pro Coro Canada in Edmonton, Michael also previously led other notable Canadian choirs including, in Montreal, the St. Lawrence Choir (2008-2013) and voces boreales (2006-2015), and the Cantata Singers Ottawa (2005-2014).

As Chorus Master of the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal (2006-2011), Michael successfully prepared groups of up to 1500 singers for OSM Artistic Director Kent Nagano, including the award-winning production Saint François d'Assise by Messiaen. Michael also prepared the Cantata Singers Ottawa for their appearances with the National Arts Centre Orchestra under conductors such as Franz-Paul Decker, Trevor Pinnock, and Helmuth Rilling.

Active as a Guest Conductor, Michael Zaugg has worked with notable groups including the Vancouver Chamber Choir, National Youth Choir of Canada, the BBC Singers, Vancouver's musica intima, Thirteen Strings, as well as the Longueuil Symphony Orchestra. Michael's US debut was with the Grammy-nominated Choir of Trinity Wall Street in New York. He has led a 60-voice male choir, with singers selected from across Canada, the US and the Ukraine, to perform the Resurrection Liturgy by Fr. John



Sembrat (Alberta) in tours across the Prairies and to Toronto, Philadelphia, Rochester and New York City.

Originally an accomplished tenor, Michael became the first Swiss conductor to be accepted to the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm, Sweden in its prestigious post-graduate program for Professional Choir Conducting. Mr. Zaugg also holds degrees in voice and music education from the University in Basel. In 2018 he was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Music (Hon DMus) by Scotland's King's College, University of Aberdeen

In 2020 Michael Zaugg, together with Pro Coro Canada, received the Choral Canada national Award for Outstanding Innovation for the CHORAL ART at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. He was also a 2020 recipient of the Edmonton Artists Trust Fund Award, and the recipient of the Con Spirito Award from Choir Alberta in 2022.

Our Board of Directors

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Introducing Jillian Nowell

Pro Coro Canada's Fund Development Specialist

Jillian has over 15 years of experience working with non-profit and for-profit industries. She has worked in numerous sectors including government relations and public relations and have several years of experience in marketing, communications, sponsorship solicitation, fundraising, partnership development and event planning and management.

With her background in marketing, public relations and fundraising, Jillian brings a combination of creativity and business skills to Pro Coro Canada.



To learn about new ways to support Pro Coro Canada, speak to Jillian at Pro Coro's concerts and events, or email development@procoro.ca



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Pro Coro Canada is a proud member of the following organizations:









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Support the Pro Coro Endowment Funds

Endowment Funds create a permanent legacy felt over generations. An endowment fund with **Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF)** invests gifts through independent investment managers. Each year, a percentage of this family of funds is granted to Pro Coro Canada, to be invested according to their intended purpose.

The Pro Coro Canada Endowment Fund

Ensures the long-term prosperity of the ensemble. This fund directly assists the general operations of the choir on-stage and behind the scenes.





The Russ and Johann Mann Endowment Fund Facilitates the creation and commission of new choral works by Canadian and International composers for performances by Pro Coro Canada, and choirs across Canada

The Maria David Evans Memorial Endowment Fund In the spirit of educating the leaders of tomorrow, the Maria David Evans Memorial Fund facilitates the educational work of Pro Coro Canada with emerging choral leaders, young singers and the local choral community at-large.



We would like to thank all families and individuals who are, in a sustainable way, generously supporting Pro Coro through the ECF endowment funds*:

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*Funds received in 2022

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The Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir wants to grow!



SING IN OUR CHOIR

We invite all those who love to sing to join us at one of our rehearsals

Who are we? Check us out at:

www.esmca.ca

For more information, send us an email at secretary@esmca.ca or call Hans at 780-464-1266

Trinity Lutheran Church 10014 - 81 Ave Tuesdays 7:30pm - 9:30pm

No musical knowledge or previous experience, just a desire to learn, sing and have fun! You don't even need to be Swiss. Oh, and since we are a men's choir, you must be male 18+

ESMC...entertaining the Edmonton community for over 40 years!

"He who sings, scares away his woes" - Miguel de Cervantes



Texts & Translations

Roncesvalles

Our story begins in Roncesvalles, in the Pyrenees in Northern Spain. This is the beginning of the pilgrimage to Santiago for perigrinos, though it is also a rest spot for those who may have begun much earlier on the path and have just crossed the French Pyrenees. The story begins with the greeting of encouragement as pilgrims meet one another: Ultreia et Suseia, "onward, upward!"

The history of St. James (Santo Iago) is related using a simple tune passed back and forth between singers (imagine pilgrims speaking in their various languages); all the texts tell the same story, most dramatically conveyed in the English version which we hear near the end of this opening narration: "Now about that time, Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James, the brother of John, with the sword." The story continues, including a short prayer to St. James for safety, sung by the low basses near the end of the movement.

Herr Santiagu (Holy Saint James) Grot Sanctiagu (Great Saint James) Eultreya esuseya (onward and upward [pilgrim greetings]) Deius aia nos. (God help us.)

[Greek] Kat ekínon de ton kínon epebalen Herodes ho basileus tas kiras kakosi tinas ton apotes ekklessias. Anelen de Yakobon ton adelphon Yawanu makirey.

[Latin] Eodem autore tempore misit Herodes rex manus ut adfligeret. Quosdam de ecclesia occidit autem lacobum fratrem Iohannis gladio. [Spanish] En aquel mismo tiempo el rey Herodes echó mano a algunos de la iglesia para maltratarles. Y mató a espada a Jacobo, hermano de Juan.

[Basque] Aldi hartan, Herodes erregea eliz elkarteko batzuei gogor erasotzen hasi zen. Santiago, Joanen anaia, ezpataz hilarazi zuen. [French] Ver ce temps-là, le roi Hérode se mit à persécuter quelques-un de membres de l'Église. Il fit mourir par l'épée Jacques, frère de Jean.

[English] Now about that time, Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James, the brother of John, with the sword.

[German] Um dieselbige Zeit legte der König Herodes die Hände an, etliche von der Gemeinde, sie zu peinigen. Er tötete aber Jakobus, den Bruder des Johannes, mit dem Schwert.

Before this death the Apostle journeyed, preaching the word to unbelievers. Returning, unheeded, to die in Jerusalem–a truth beyond Gospel.

Jacobus, filius Zebedaei, frate Johannis, (James, son of Zebedee, brother of John,)

Hic Spaniae et occidentalia loca praedicat, (at that time preached in Spain and the western places.)

foy el o primeiro que preegou en Galizia. (He was the first to preach in Galicia.)

Herod rots on a borrowed throne,

while the saint is translated to Heaven and Spain,

the body taken at night from the tomb,

the stone of the tomb becoming the boat

that carries him back ad extremis terrarum,

back to the land that denied him in life.

Huius beatissimi apostoli sacra ossa ad Hispanias translata; (The sacred bones of the blessed apostle taken to Spain;)

Et despois que o rrey Erodes mãdou matar en Iherusalem, (his disciples took the body by sea to Galicia.)

trouxerõ o corpo del os diçipolos por mar a Galiza. (after King Herod killed him in Jerusalem,)

From Jerusalem to Finisterre,

from the heart of the world to the end of the land

in a boat made of stone, without rudder or sail.

Guided by grace to the Galician shore,

abandonnant à la Providencela soin de la sepulture. (abandoning to Providence the care of the tomb.)

O ajutor omnium seculorum, (O judge of all the world,)

O decus apostollorum, (O glory of the apostles,)

O lus clara galicianorum, (O clear light of Galicia,)

O avocate peregrinorum, (O defender of pilgrims,)

Jacobe, suplantatur viciorum (James, destroyer of sins,)

Solve nostrum Cathenes delitorum (deliver us from evil)

E duc a salutum portum. (and lead us to safe harbour.)

At night on Lebredon by Iria Flavia, the hermit Pelayo, at prayer and alone, saw in the heavens a ring of bright stars shining like beacons over the plain; and, as in Bethlehem the Magi were guided, the hermit was led by this holy sign.

For this was the time given to Spain for St. James to be found after eight hundred years in Compostela, by the field of stars.

Herr Santiagu (Holy Saint James), Grot Sanctiagu (Great Saint James)

Eultreya esuseya (onward and upward [pilgrim greetings])

Deius aia nos. (God help us.)

Burgos

Here is the first great church on the camino, at Burgos. Life on the path is hard, with cheating and danger everywhere. Still, the stories of miracles on the road sustain, and the wonders ascribed to the relics of St. James are recounted. We are warned of the trickster-like behaviour of the devil in a ghoulish ragtime witches' dance: "Sometimes the Saint takes the form of a pilgrim, sometimes the devil the form of a saint."

Innkeepers cheat us, the English steal, the devil waits at the side of the road. We trust in words and remnants, prayers and bones. We know that the world is a lesson, as the carved apostles in the Puerta Alta dividing the damned and the saved are a lesson. We beat our hands against the walls of heaven. St. Julian of Cuenca, Santa Casilda, pray for us. Remember the pilgrim robbed in Pamplona, cheated of silver the night his wife died; remember the son of the German pilgrim, hanged as a thief at the gates of the town, hanged at the word of an innkeeper's daughter. Innkeepers cheat us, the English steal, the devil waits at the side of the road. We trust in words and remnants, prayers and bones.

Santiago Peregrino:

His arm is in England, his jaw in Italy, and yet he works wonders. The widower, the boy on the gallows—he did not fail them. One given a horse on the road by a stranger, one kept alive for twenty-six days, unhurt on a gallows for twenty-six days. His jaw is in Italy, yet he speaks. The widower robbed in Pamplona: Told by the Saint how the thief fell from the roof of a house to his death. His arm is in England, yet the boy, the pilgrim's son they hanged in Toulouse, was borne on the gallows for twenty-six days and called to his father: Do not mourn, for all this time the Saint has been with me. O beate Jacobe.

Innkeepers cheat us, the English steal. We are sick of body, worthy of hell. The apostles in the Puerta Alta have seen a thousand wonders; the stone floor is worn with tears, with ecstasies and lamentations. We beat our hands against the walls of heaven.

Santiago Peregrino:

The devil waits in a turn in the wind, in a closing door, in an empty room. A voice at night, a waking dream:

Traveller, be wary of strangers, sometimes the Saint takes the form of a pilgrim, sometimes the devil the form of a saint. Pray to the

Saints and the Virgen del Camino to save you as she saved the man from Lyon who was tricked on the road by the deceiver, tricked by the devil in the form of St. James, and who killed himself from fear of hell; the devil cried out and claimed his soul. Weeping, his companions prayed. Saint and Virgin heard the prayer and turned his wound into a scar; from mercy they gave the dead man life.

Innkeepers cheat us, the English steal; we are sick of body, worthy of hell. We beat our hands against the walls of heaven and are not heard. We pray for miracles and are given stories; bread, and are given stones. We write our sins on parchment to cast upon his shrine in hope they will burn.

We pray to St. Julian of Cuenca, to St. Amaro the Pilgrim, to Santa Casilda, to San Millan and the Virgin of the Road. We pray to Santiago. We know that the world is a lesson, as the carved apostles in the Puerta Alta dividing the damned and the saved are a lesson. We pray the watching saints will help us learn. Ora pro nobis, Jacobe, a finibus terrae ad te clamavi. (From the end of the earth I cry to you.)

Leon

The third movement finds us deep in the heart of the journey. There is fatigue, but also the very special sense of wonder that comes with this spiritual journey. The music could be a stand-in for a lux aeterna, beginning with an aura of light (Li soleus) that nuances the otherwise bone-weary fatigue of the journey; the movement leads again to an exchange of stories of miracles, a chanted blessing, and a final rest "as at the heart of a sun that dazzles and does not burn."

Li soleus qui en moi luist est mes deduis, et Dieus est mon conduis. (The sun that shines within me is my joy, and God is my guide.) We have walked in Jakobsland: over river and sheep track, by hospice and hermit's cave. We sleep on the earth and dream of the road, we wake to the road and we walk. Wind from the hills dry as the road, sun overhead, too bright for the eye.

Li soleus qui en moi luist est mes deduis, et Dieus est mon conduis. Rumours of grace on the road, of wonders: the miracles of Villasirga, the Virgin in the apple tree. The Apostle on horseback—a journey of days in one night. God knows we have walked in Jakobsland: through the Gothic Fields, from Castrogeriz to Calzadilla, Calzadilla to Sahagun, each day the same road, the same sun.

Quam dilecta tabernacula tua, Dominum virtutem. (How admirable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts.)

Here is a miracle. That we are here is a miracle.

Here daylight gives an image of the heaven promised by His love. Beate, qui habitant in domo tua, Domine; (Blessed are they that dwell in thy house O Lord;)

In saecula saeculorum laudabant te. (they will always be praising Thee.) We pause, as at the heart of a sun that dazzles and does not burn.

Santiago

This is the final stage of the pilgrimage, and the arrival at the holy shrine. The text is self-explanatory, describing the final stretch of the path to Santiago. At the arrival the music breaks out into a distinct dance or celebration. The journey ends reflectively, just beyond Santiago, at the ocean that for the original pilgrims was "the Western edge of the world."

The road climbs through changing land. Northern rains fall on the deepening green of the slopes of the valley, storms break the summer's heat; at Foncebadon a pass can be lost, in one night, to the snow. The road climbs for days through the highlands of Bierzo, to the grassland and rocks of the Valcarce valley.

White broom and scrub-oak, laburnum and gorse mark the bare hills beside the road. At O Cebreiro, mountains. The road follows the ridgetop by meadows of fern, by fields of rye. By Fonfria del Camino, by Triacastela. Towns are shadows the road leaves behind. It moves over the slate hills. Palas do Rei. Potomarin. The names are shadows.

Then, from the stream at Lavacolla to the foot of Monte de Gozo, a morning; from the foot of Monte de Gozo to the summit of Monte de Gozo the road climbs, before the longed-for final descent to Santiago. Herr Santiagu, Grot Sanctiagu, Eultreya esuseya, Deius aia nos. Ver redit optatum cum gaudio, (Longed-for spring returns, with joy,) Flore decoratum purpureo; (with shining flowers adorned;) Aves edunt cantus quam dulciter, (the birds sing so sweetly,) Cantus est amoenus totaliter. (pleasant song is everywhere.) Jacobo dat parium omnis mundus gratis (The whole world freely gives thanks to James)

Ob cuius remedium miles pietatis (through his sacrifice, he, the warrior of godliness)

Cunctorum presidium est ad vota satis. (is a great defence to all through their prayers.)

O Beate Jacobe virtus nostra vere (O blessed James, truly our strength) Nobis hostes remove tuos ac tuere (take our enemies from us and protect your people)

Ac devotos adibe nos tibi placere. (and cause us, your faithful servants, to please you.)

Jacobo propicio veniam speramus (James, let us hope for pardon through your favour)

Et quas ex obsequio merito debemus (and let us give the worthy praise) Patri tam eximio dignes laudes demus. (which we rightfully owe to so excellent a father.)

At the Western edge of the world we pray for our sins to fall from us as chains from the limbs of penitents. We have walked out of the lives we had and will return to nothing, if we live, changed by the journey, face and soul alike. We have walked out of our lives to come to where the walls of heaven a are thin as a curtain, transparent as glass, where the Apostle spoke the holy words, where in death he returned, where God is close, where saints and martyrs mark the road.

Santiago, primus ex apostolis, defender of pilgrims, warrior for truth, take from our backs the burdens of this life, what we have done, who we have been; take them as fire takes the cloth they cast into the sea at Finisterre. Holy St. James, great St. James, God help us now and evermore.

CELEBRATE WITH PRO CORO CANADA

Sunday, October 29, 2023
In Person at The Butternut Tree Restaurant

Join friends, fellow Edmontonians, and special guests to celebrate the creativity, artistic innovation, and musical resilience of our professional chamber choir Pro Coro Canada with an evening of all things local: food, art, and choral music!

Members of Pro Coro Canada and our #connect youth choir will present a short selection of music, Chef Scott will tell you about culinary creativity, and artist Jane Berry will paint a new artwork, which you can bid on during the event. Attendees will receive a complimentary copy of our new CD 'We Breathe In Stars' featuring 9 works by Edmonton composers.

Purchase your tickets by October 13 at procoro.ca/celebrate



When the global pandemic brought life to a standstill in the winter of 2020, the performing arts, like many other industries and disciplines, suffered immensely. Pro Coro Canada commissioned 8 Alberta composers to each write a short four-part a cappella work that could be learned individually at home and eventually sung in small groups in large venues or outside.

Pro Coro Canada subsequently recorded these works in full and as individual practice videos in the summer of 2020, one of the earliest professional choral activities during the pandemic in Canada. The choir has since performed the compositions several times in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region.

WE BREATHE IN STARS

The CD is available for purchase at today's concert

PRO CORO CANADA
MICHAEL ZAUGG, CONDUCTOR

CHORAL MUSIC BY ALBERTA COMPOSERS

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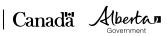


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