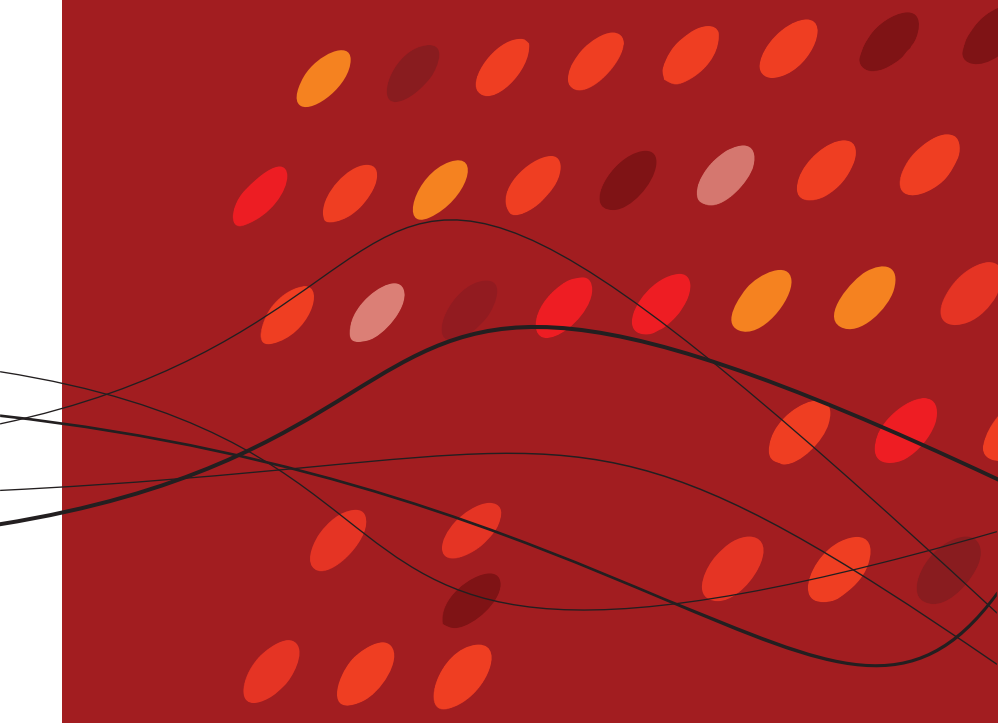


MICHAEL ZAUGG
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR

17 DECEMBER 23
**THE LITTLE MATCH
GIRL PASSION**

7:30 PM
SELECT SERIES



ProCoro  CANADA

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Unlock the festive spirit with our December Holiday Series concerts! Indulge yourself in El Jardin or El Corazon restaurant and enjoy a 10% discount on your table. All in-person attendees of our December Holiday Series concerts are eligible. Just show your Pro Coro ticket or subscription pass at the restaurant. Promo runs from December 9th to January 3rd.

Want to record today's concert on your smartphone and share it with your friends? We have a better option for you! Head to tv.procoro.ca to watch all of Pro Coro's 23.24 Season Experience Series concerts. Please put your phone in do not disturb mode, leave it out of sight for the duration of the concert, and enjoy being present while we perform magnificent choral music for you.

Vision, Mission, Values, and Goals

VISION

Inspired hearts, minds and spirits in all who experience our world class professional chamber choir.

MISSION

Pro Coro Canada, a not-for-profit arts organization, performs and commissions choral music in the Western-European tradition, with an affinity for works of the 20th and 21st centuries; employs professional singers, and provides internships for emerging artists.

Pro Coro Canada fosters and promotes Canadian talent and content, develops best practices in choral music through innovative programming, and maximizes channels to disseminate performances globally.

Pro Coro Canada engages with diverse artistic partners in the search for challenging and satisfying choral music experiences for audiences and performers, while continually striving for excellence.

VALUES

Choral Leadership
Innovation Built on Legacy
Professional Artists
Orchestra of Voices
Excellence
Inspiration

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND GOALS

1. Strengthen stability and sustainability
2. Strive for Choral Excellence
3. Nurture Leadership
4. Advance Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

To learn more about Pro Coro's Strategic Plan, visit procoro.ca/strategic-plan-2021-2024

Harmony for the Holidays

Pro Coro's 1st Annual Harmony for the Holidays Campaign
is officially underway!

From December 9th – 31st, join us in our efforts to raise \$5,000 and our mission to make a difference through music! Support Pro Coro Canada's annual fundraising campaign Harmony for the Holidays and help us bring joy and inspiration to our community.

Your support fuels our mission to spread the inspiration of choral music in our community and ensures the continuation of beautiful melodies, powerful sonorities and meaningful outreach and education programs.

Join our donor family today and provide Harmony for the Holidays!

procoro.ca/support



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.

Index

Program..... 6

Performers..... 6

Pro Coro Canada..... 7

Our Conductor

Michael Zaugg..... 8

Our Board of Directors & Staff..... 9

Our Supporters..... 10

Support Our Endowment Funds..... 12

Texts & Translations..... 13

Our Next Concert..... 20

Pro Coro Canada
 #309, 10113 - 104 Street NW
 Edmonton, AB, T5J 1A1
 780.420.1247
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The Little Match Girl Passion

Michael Zaugg, conductor

Petra Shields, soprano, sleigh bells

Adrienne Sitko, alto, crotales

Andrew Whiteside, tenor, glockenspiel

Michael Kurschat, bass, bass drum, tubular bells

In the bleak mid-winter

Harold Darke

O Deued Pob Cristion, from *A Christmas Carol*

Traditional

Arr. Benedict Sheehan

Siehe, ich sende meinen Engel

Melchior Vulpius

The Little Match Girl Passion

David Lang

1. Come daughter, help me cry (opening chorus)
2. It was terribly cold and nearly dark
3. Dearest heart, what did you do that was so wrong? (chorale)
4. In an old apron she carried a number of matches
5. Penance and remorse, tear my sinful heart in two (chorale)
6. Lights were shining from every window
7. Patience (spoken)
8. Ah! Perhaps a burning match might be some good
9. Have mercy, my God
10. She lighted another match
11. From the sixth hour there was darkness
'Eli, Eli, lama asabthani - my God, why has thou forsaken me'
12. She again rubbed a match on the wall
13. When it is time for me to go (chorale)
14. In the dawn of the morning there lay a poor little girl
15. We sit and cry - rest soft (final chorus)

Ich will dich mit Fleiß bewahren*

J. S. Bach

*Chorales from Bach's Christmas Oratorio

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, Tõnu 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 Spiritu Award from Choir Alberta in 2022.

Our Board of Directors

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**Donations received directly to Pro Coro Canada from January 1 - December 1, 2023*

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



choir alberta



Choral Canada
Association of Canadian
Choral Communities

Canada Choral
Association des communautés
chorales canadiennes

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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Susan Rockwood

**Funds received in 2022*

To donate, visit procoro.ca/endowment

Texts & Translations

In the bleak mid-winter

Harold Darke

Lyricist: Christina Rossetti

In the bleak midwinter frosty winds made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold him nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed.
The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
A breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay:
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but only his mother in her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,
If I were a Wise Man I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

O Deued Pob Críston

Arranged by Benedict Sheehan in *A Christmas Carol*

All poor men and humble,
All lame men who stumble,
Come haste ye, nor feel ye afraid;
For Jesus, our treasure,
With love past all measure,
In lowly poor manger was laid.
Though wise men who found him
Laid rich gifts around him,
Yet oxen they gave him their hay:

And Jesus in beauty
 Accepted their duty;
 Contented in manger he lay.
 Then haste we to show him
 The praises we owe him;
 Our service he ne'er can despise.
 Whose love is still able
 To show us that stable
 Where softly in manger he lies.

**Siehe, ich sende meinen Engel
 Melchior Vulpius
 Text: Malachi 3:1**

Siehe, ich sende meinen Engel
 vor dir her, der dir den Weg
 vor dir bereiten soll.

Behold, I will send My Angel

Behold, I will send My Angel,
 and he shall prepare the way
 before Me.

**The Little Match Girl Passion
 Words and music by David Lang
 after H.C. Andersen, H.P. paull, Picander and Saint Matthew**

1. Come, daughter

Come, daughter
 Help me, daughter
 Help me cry
 Look, daughter
 Where, daughter
 What, daughter
 Who, daughter
 Why, daughter
 Guiltless daughter
 Patient daughter
 Gone

2. It was terribly cold

It was terribly cold and nearly dark on the last evening of the old year, and the snow was falling fast. In the cold and the darkness, a poor little girl, with bare head and naked feet, roamed through the streets. It is true she had on a pair of slippers when she left home, but they were not of much use. They were very large, so large, indeed, that they had belonged to her mother, and

the poor little creature had lost them in running across the street to avoid two carriages that were rolling along at a terrible rate. One of the slippers she could not find, and a boy seized upon the other and ran away with it, saying that he could use it as a cradle, when he had children of his own. So the little girl went on with her little naked feet, which were quite red and blue with the cold.

So the little girl went on.
So the little girl went on.

3. Dearest heart

Dearest heart, Dearest heart, What did you do that was so wrong? What was so wrong?
Dearest heart, Dearest heart, Why is your sentence so hard?

4. In an old apron

In an old apron she carried a number of matches, and had a bundle of them in her hands. No one had bought anything of her the whole day, nor had any one given her even a penny. Shivering with cold and hunger, she crept along; poor little child, she looked the picture of misery. The snowflakes fell on her long, fair hair, which hung in curls on her shoulders, but she regarded them not.

5. Penance and remorse

Penance and remorse
Tear my sinful heart in two
My teardrops
May they fall like rain down upon your poor face
May they fall down like rain
My teardrops

Here, daughter, here I am
I should be bound as you were bound
All that I deserve is
What you have endured

Penance and remorse.
Tear my sinful heart in two
My penance
My remorse
My penance

6. Lights were shining

Lights were shining from every window, and there was a savory smell of roast goose, for it was New-year's eve- yes, she remembered that. In a corner, between two houses, one of which projected beyond the other, she sank down and huddled herself together. She had drawn her little feet under her, but she could not keep off the cold; and she dared not go home, for she had sold no matches, and could not take home even a penny of money. Her father would certainly beat her; besides, it was almost as cold at home as here, for they had only the roof to cover them, through which the wind howled, although the largest holes had been stopped up with straw and rags.

Her little hands were almost frozen with the cold.
Her little hands were almost frozen with the cold.

7. Patience, patience!

Patience.
Patience!

8. Ah! perhaps

Ah! perhaps a burning match might be some good, if she could draw it from the bundle and strike it against the wall, just to warm her fingers. She drew one out-"scratch!" how it sputtered as it burnt! It gave a warm, bright light, like a little candle, as she held her hand over it. It was really a wonderful light. It seemed to the little girl that she was sitting by a large iron stove, with polished brass feet and a brass ornament. How the fire burned! and seemed so beautifully warm that the child stretched out her feet as if to warm them, when, lo! the flame of the match went out, the stove vanished, and she had only the remains of the half-burnt match in her hand.

She rubbed another match on the wall. It burst into a flame, and where its light fell upon the wall it became as transparent as a veil, and she could see into the room. The table was covered with a snowy white table-cloth, on which stood a splendid dinner service, and asteamng roast goose, stuffed with apples and dried plums. And what was still more wonderful, the goose jumped down from the dish and waddled across the floor, with a knife and fork in its breast, to the little girl. Then the match went out, and there remained nothingbut the thick, damp, cold wall before her.

9. Have mercy, my God

Have mercy, my God.
Look here, my God.
See my tears fall. See my tears fall.
Have mercy, my God. Have mercy.

My eyes are crying.
My heart is crying, my God.
See my tears fall.
See my tears fall, my God.

10. She lighted another match

She lighted another match, and then she found herself sitting under a beautiful Christmas-tree. It was larger and more beautifully decorated than the one which she had seen through the glass door at the rich merchant's. Thousands of tapers were burning upon the green branches, and colored pictures, like those she had seen in the show-windows, looked down upon it all. The little one stretched out her hand towards them, and the match went out.

The Christmas lights rose higher and higher, till they looked to her like the stars in the sky. Then she saw a star fall, leaving behind it a bright streak of fire. "Some one is dying," thought the little girl, for her old grandmother, the only one who had ever loved her, and who was now dead, had told her that when a star falls, a soul was going up to God.

11. From the sixth hour

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour she cried out:

Eli, Eli.

12. She again rubbed a match

She again rubbed a match on the wall, and the light shone round her; in the brightness stood her old grandmother, clear and shining, yet mild and loving in her appearance. "Grandmother," cried the little one, "O take me with you; I know you will go away when the match burns out; you will vanish like the warm stove, the roast goose, and the large, glorious Christmas-tree." And she made haste to light the whole bundle of matches, for she wished to keep her grandmother there. And the matches glowed with a light that was brighter than the noon-day, and her grandmother had never appeared so large or

so beautiful. She took the little girl in her arms, and they both flew upwards in brightness and joy far above the earth, where there was neither cold nor hunger nor pain, for they were with God.

13. When it is time for me to go

When it is time for me to go
Don't go from me
When it is time for me to leave
Don't leave me
When it is time for me to die
Stay with me
When I am most scared
Stay with me

14. In the dawn of morning

In the dawn of morning there lay the poor little one, with pale cheeks and smiling mouth, leaning against the wall; she had been frozen to death on the last evening of the year; and the New-year's sun rose and shone upon a little corpse! The child still sat, in the stiffness of death, holding the matches in her hand, one bundle of which was burnt. "She tried to warm herself," said some. No one imagined what beautiful things she had seen, nor into what glory she had entered with her grandmother, on New-year's day.

15. We sit and cry

We sit and cry
And call to you
Rest soft, daughter, rest soft
Where is your grave, daughter?
Where is your tomb?
Where is your resting place?
Rest soft, daughter, rest soft

Rest soft
Rest soft
Rest soft
Rest soft

You closed your eyes.
I closed my eyes.

Rest soft

Ich will dich mit Fleiß bewahren
J.S. Bach

Ich will dich mit Fleiß bewahren,
Ich will dir
Leben hier,
Dir will ich abfahren,
Mit dir will ich endlich schweben
Voller Freud
Ohne Zeit
Dort im andern Leben.

I will cherish You assiduously

I will cherish You assiduously,
I will
live for You here,
to You will I depart,
with You, at last, I will float
full of joy,
endlessly,
there in the other life.

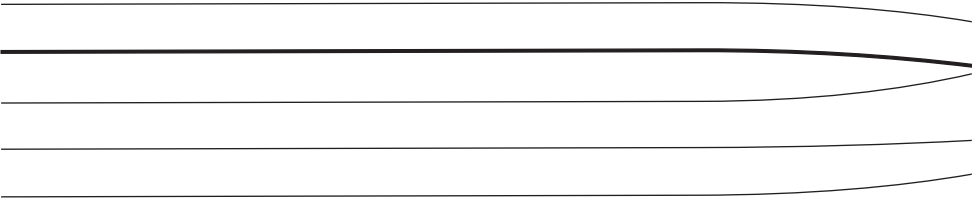
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31 DECEMBER 23

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