



PROFESSIONAL CORO CHAMBER CANADA CHOIR

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.



Sing into Spring with the sound of Pro Coro Canada. As spring blossoms all around us, Pro Coro Canada is gearing up for an exciting fundraising campaign "Sing into Spring."

Sing into Spring runs from April 27th to June 10th, 2024. Join us in our efforts to raise \$10,000 for renewal, growth, and musical celebration. Your generous participation in this campaign will enable us to nurture emerging musicians, allow the continuation of important outreach programs, and help us create unforgettable choral experiences for you - our audience.

Your donation, no matter the size, makes a significant impact and helps us facilitate these important programs that provide opportunity for artistic expression and growth.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss supporting Pro Coro Canada, please speak to our **Fund Development Specialist Jillian Nowell** during intermission or after the show.

Spring is here, and so is our passion for making a difference, please donate today at <u>procoro.ca/donation-form</u>



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 20thand 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

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

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

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

<u>Conductors</u> Michael Zaugg Andrew Bortz Evelyn Grieger

Pro Coro Canada, Edmonton Youth Choir & Resound

Muusika Pärt Uusberg

Resound

Lao Rahal Soti

Samih Choukeir arr. Shireen Abu-Khader

Soloist: Catherine Labbe

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

The Idea of North

Edmonton Youth Choir & Resound

Qilak Andrew Balfour*

Edmonton Youth Choir

Tourdion Pierre Attaingnant

TāReKiTa Reena Esmail

~ Presentation of Honorary Fellowship of the Summer Institute of Church Music to Dr. Jacobus Kloppers by Members of the SICM Board of Directors ~

Pro Coro Canada & Edmonton Youth Choir

Sing and Make Music[^]

Trent Worthington*

Christopher Dawes, organ

~ Intermission ~

Enjoy the Silence

Martin Gore arr. Eric Whitacre

Petra Shields, soprano

Pro Coro Canada

Tapestry

laura hawley*

- 1. A Speck in the Cosmos Beholding the Cosmos[^]
- 2. Remembering Angels^
- 3. Warrior

Amy Voyer, alto, Sarah Schaub, soprano, Andrew Whiteside, tenor

4. Around You I Turn

Pro Coro Canada, Edmonton Youth Choir & Resound

Apple Tree

Aurora Aksnes arr. Katerina Gimon*

^{*}Canadian Composer ^World Premier

Performers

Pro Coro Canada

Michael Zaugg, conductor

<u>Soprano</u>

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

Alto

Sable Chan Kimberley Denis Britney Huynh Abby Mendola* Jessica Robertson Adrienne Sitko Amy Voyer

<u>Tenor</u>

Nathan Bootsma
Tyson Kerr
Brett Ludwig
Laren Steppler
Andrew Whiteside
Anthony Wynne

Bass

Andrew Bortz Kyle Carter Rob Curtis Peter Malcolm Christian Maxfield Colden Palo

Organ

Christopher Dawes

*Emerging Artist

Tapestry, by laura hawley

This work, all based on poems by Canadian poet Jeni Couzyn, follows a trajectory of seeking/searching, struggle, affirmation, and arrival/peace/love.

The first two movements were commissioned by Vancouver Chamber Choir – Kari Turunen, Artistic Director; The Elora Singers – Mark Vuorinen, Artistic Director; and Pro Coro Canada – Michael Zaugg, Artistic Director. Movements 3 & 4 commissioned and premiered by Halifax Camerata Singers – Jeff Joudrey, Artistic Director – for their 35th Anniversary Season, 2021-22. This composition was made possible with the generous support and grant assistance from the SOCAN Foundation.



Edmonton Youth Choir

Samara & Andrew Bortz, conductors

Edmonton Youth Choir

Ayanna Alora **Emily Baker** Ronn Bastian Delaney Bell Emily Bengry Lia Brioso Amy Bryce Joanne Chan Isabel Davies Caeley D'Souza Ella Fernandez Rowan Foulger Aoi Fujii Adaon Johnson Kendra Keenan Elianna Lang Brooklyn Loong Taylor McDonough Adelina Petric Gabriel Qian Peter Robertson Sam Robertson Nicola Santo Melina Sinfield

Jorgia-Jade Todd

Resound

Chloe Carpenter Shaylene Cerezke-Riemer Parker Dean Max Eggert Meagan Emmelkamp* Samuel Esteban Jessica Goquen Thomas Guay Ash Johannesen Anna Kraemer Catherine Labbe Liberty Lang Genevieve Lyder Josiah Maxfield* Taylor McDonough Abby Mendola* Melisa Okte-Meza Remi Oyediji Jamie Paramonov Lindy Thompson* Sam Thompson Tim To* Alana Whitson

*choral scholars

This concert is supported by RBC Emerging Artists



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 Pro Coro Canada

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.

Jacobus Kloppers

Jacobus Kloppers was born in South Africa in 1937. After private studies in piano and organ, he completed his B.Mus. Honns at the Potchefstroom University for Christian High Education (1961) and obtained his Performer and Teacher Licentiates in organ from the University of South Africa (UNISA). In 1959 he won the UNISA Overseas Scholarship in Organ Performance and continued his organ study with the Bach specialist/performer Professor Helmut Walcha at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Frankfurt am Main (1961-1965), West Germany and received a PhD in Musicology from the Johann Wolfgang-Goethe University in Frankfurt, 1966, with a thesis on the interpretation of Bach's organ music.



The thesis, with five reprints, was distributed by Bärenreiter Antiquariat in Kassel.

He taught Organ and Musicology at the University of the Orange Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa (1966-1976) and at The King's University College in Edmonton from 1979 until his retirement from institutional teaching in 2013. In 1979, he was appointed at King's to develop a Music Program, which he chaired until his retirement as tenured faculty member in 2008. He served as organist/choir director in Reformed Churches in South Africa (1956-1961 & 1966-1976) and West Germany (1961-1966) and in St. John's Anglican Church in Edmonton from 1976 to the present. Until 2000 he gave organ recitals and lectures in South Africa, North America, Germany and Austria and did organ broadcast work for the SABC and CBC.

As organ consultant, he was involved in a number of organ projects in South Africa and Canada, including the Davis Concert Organ in the Winspear Centre.

His ca. 86 compositions are mostly commissioned works and consist of organ chorale preludes, choral anthems and - concertati, a *Te Deum* for SATB with timpani and organ, two organ concerti, two saxophone concerti, two larger works for saxophone and organ, 2 organ duet suites, a concert piece for organ (*Dialectic Fantasy*), a concert piece *Reflections* for piano, a *Piece Concertante for Organ, Piano and Timpani*, an art song cycle *Celebration of Faith* for tenor and organ based on chorales, the *Celtic Impressions* for organ solo, *The Last Rose of Summer* for organ and piano and the *Jack and the Bean Stalk* for narrator and organ. The latter 3 pieces, together with seven of his Christmas carol settings for organ have been orchestrated in 2020 (with retention of the organ part). He is an Associate Composer of the Canadian Music Centre, member of the Canadian League of Composers, member of New Music Edmonton (1986-2020), an Honorary Fellow of the *Royal Canadian College of Organists*, Honorary Member of the *South African Society of Church Organists (SAKOV)* and was inducted into the Edmonton Cultural Hall of Fame in 2008.

Fellowship of the Summer Institute of Church Music



F.SICM - FELLOWSHIP OF THE SUMMER INSTITUTE OF CHURCH MUSIC is an honour conferred every two years by Canada's Summer Institute of Church Music upon individuals who have given deeply of themselves to church music in this country. The SICM Board of Directors identifies, every odd-numbered year, an individual for recognition as a Fellow of the Summer Institute of Church Music, and commissions a Canadian composer (acquainted with the honoree) to create a sacred anthem score with the understanding that it be dedicated to the honoree. SICM's 2023 (and in total, eighth) Fellow is Edmonton composer, educator and church musician Dr. Jacobus Kloppers, and Edmonton composer Trent Worthington has provided "Sing and Make Music to the Lord" in his honour. Because a premiere was not possible in 2023 SICM is deeply grateful to Pro Coro Canada and the Edmonton Youth Choir for agreeing to present the premiere performance of this work at today's concert.

Canada's Summer Institute of Church Music has since 1970 provided an annual opportunity for study, retreat, networking and inspiration to church musicians of all denominations and levels of ability. Its 2024 program featuring top choral, organ and additional faculty will be held in-person in Whitby, Ontario from July 9-11, with its daily 4-hour sessions available online from 10am-2pm Mountain Time, and in time zones across Canada.

For more information or to register, visit sicm.ca



Edmonton Youth Choir



Samara Bortz
EYCC Artistic & Executive Director
Youth Choir Conductor



Andrew Bortz
Interim EYCC Artistic & Executive Director
Resound & Youth Choir Conductor

Samara is a dynamic choral conductor, singer, and music educator, originally from Vancouver, BC, but now proud to call Edmonton home. Before moving to Edmonton, Samara was the founder and Artistic Director of the Crescent Choirs, helping grow the organization from a single choir of 25 singers to six different ensembles with more than 150 singers across all ages and levels. Samara is known for creating a rehearsal atmosphere that allows her singers to grow as musicians, as well as empathetic community members and confident leaders. As a conductor, she is committed to creating choral artistry while embracing the joyful human connection that comes from singing with others. Samara holds a Bachelor of Music in voice performance from Mount Allison University, a Master of Arts in historical musicology from UBC and a Master of Music degree in choral conducting, also from UBC. Samara has sung with a number of acclaimed choral ensembles such as UBC's University Singers, Vancouver's Phoenix Chamber Choir, and Edmonton's Pro Coro Canada. In her nonchoir life, Samara also runs her own website and brand design business for creative entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Andrew is a sought-after conductor, singer, composer, pianist, and music educator. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in choral conducting from the University of Alberta. Before continuing his studies at the U of A, Andrew was the founder and artistic director of Aurora Chamber Choir, and also worked as the assistant conductor for Vancouver's Phoenix Chamber Choir and Chrysalis Vocal Ensemble. As an accompanist, Andrew is known for his sensitive and intuitive music-making, and has collaborated with high school, collegiate, and community choirs across the United States and Canada. In the past, he has sung with professional ensembles musica intima and Vancouver Chamber Choir. Andrew is currently a bass in Edmonton's Pro Coro Canada. Andrew received a Master of Music degree in choral conducting from the University of British Columbia in 2017. His previous studies include a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington where he studied voice, composition, and piano.

Guest Performer: Christopher Dawes, organ



Christopher Dawes is a widely recorded and acclaimed Toronto-based performer, conductor and consultant who has been heard in recital and broadcast across Canada and abroad. A three-decade fixture of the Southern Ontario music scene and frequent collaborator with many of its top institutions, he currently serves as Organist and Director of Music to Rosedale Presbyterian Church, and Artistic Director of the 18-voice a capella Marion Singers of Greater Toronto.

For two decades he has served as Collaborative Pianist and Coach to the graduate and undergraduate instrumental and choral conducting programs of the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto, and as a Director of Canada's Summer Institute of Church Music.

Since 2018 he has also chaired the Executive of the Southern Ontario Chapter (SOCHS) of the Hymn Society of the US and Canada. Chris's graduate work in the area of Music Criticism and musical genre has led to occasional blogging and podcasting under the banner "Ideas About Music," speaking at conferences, and eventually founding the Celtic-crossover band Chroí in 2013. He lives with his wife Marcia and their children in Georgetown, Ontario.

Guest Performer: Evelyn Grieger, conductor



Evelyn Grieger, DMA (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), MMus (University of Alberta), BMus (University of Lethbridge), is an Edmonton-based choral conductor, church musician and educator. Throughout her career, Evelyn has made significant contributions to various post-secondary institutions, including those in the Edmonton and surrounding area, having conducted their choirs and taught both undergraduate and graduate courses. At The King's University, she currently teaches Theory, Harmony & Music Appreciation. Driven by her commitment to music education, she has nurtured countless students in their musical pursuits. Her influence extends beyond academia through her role as the Minister of Music at First Baptist Church, where she demonstrates her dedication to creating meaningful worship services through her responsibilities of curating and overseeing music for worship, conducting the Adult Choir, and undertaking pastoral duties.

Evelyn's involvement with the Summer Institute of Church Music (SICM) spans a decade, having been a "student," a faculty member, and now serving on the board. By advocating for and supporting church musicians, she has helped sustain and enhance SICM's impact on the Canadian church music community, especially during the challenging years of the pandemic. As Canada's sole program dedicated to the professional development of church musicians, SICM holds a unique position in the country's church music landscape. Evelyn is delighted to be involved with the world premiere of Trent Worthington's piece, "Sing and Make Music," commissioned in Honour of Dr. Jacobus Kloppers. Thank you to Pro Coro Canada and the Edmonton Youth Choir for making this possible.

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Choral Canada Association of Canadian Canada Choral Association des communautés

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*:

Alexandra Schepansky
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Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir

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*Funds received in 2022

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Texts & Translations

Muusika Pärt Uusberg Text by Juhan Liiv

Kuskil peab alguskokkukõla olema, kuskil suures looduses, varjul.
On tema vägevas laotuses, täheringide kauguses, on tema päikese sära sees, lillekeses, metsakohinas, emakõne südamemuusikas või silmavees – kuskil peab surematus olema, kuskilt alguskokkukõla leitama: kust oleks muidu inimese rinda saanud ta – muusika?

Somewhere the original harmony must exist, hidden somewhere in the vast wilds. In Earth's mighty firmament, in the far reaches of swirling galaxies, in sunshine, in a little flower, in the song of a forest, in the music of a mother's voice, or in teardrops – somewhere, immortality endures, and the original harmony will be found. How else could it have formed in human hearts – music?

Lao Rahal Soti Text: Samih Choukeir arr. Shireen Abu-Khader

لَ و َ رَح لُ ص و تي ما بِت رَح لَ ح ِ ناجُركم في و تي ما بِت رَح لَ ح ِ ناجُركم في على بكرا وقلبي معكم لل و راح ُ الم غَن ِي بْت ضّل األغاني و ج مع ق ِ لوب الم يكسورة و ِ البُتعاني

If my voice departs, your throats (voices) will not I look unto tomorrow and my heart is with you If the singer goes (dies), the songs will remain Bringing together the broken and suffering hearts

Sweet, Sweet Spirit The Idea of North Trans, Ian Vickers

There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place, And I know that it's the spirit of the Lord. There are sweet expressions on each face, And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly dove Stay right here with us, fill us with your love. And for these blessing, we lift our hearts in praise Without a doubt we'll know, that we have been revived When we shall leave this place.

Qilak

Text: Inuktitut Andrew Balfour

Qilak - いし Tunguniq - つものい The sky, the heavens, paradise Reflection of open water in the sky at the horizon

Tourdion Pierre Attaingnant

Soprano:

Quand je bois du vin clairet, ami,

tout tourne

aussi désormais je bois Anjou ou Arbois

Chantons et buvons,

à ce flacon faisons la guerre Chantons et buvons, mes amis,

buyons donc!

When I drink light red wine, friend, Everything goes round and round So from now on I'll drink Anjou or Arbois Let's sing and drink and wage war on this bottle Let's sing and drink, my friends,

let's drink!

Alto:

Le bon vin nous a rendu gais,

chantons

oublions nos peines, chantons! En mangeant d'un gras jambon

à ce flacon

faisons la guerre!

Good wine renders us merry,

let's sing

Forget our sorrows, let's sing! While eating of a fat ham.

On this bottle let us wage war!

Tenor & Bass:

Buvons bien,

buvons mes amis trinquons,

buvons, gaiement chantons!

En mangeant d'un gras jambon

à ce flacon faisons la guerre! Let us drink well,

drink my friends, clink glasses,

Drink, merrily sing!

While eating of a fat ham,

On this bottle let us wage war!

TāReKiTa Reena Esmail

Dha Tarekita, Dhum Tarekita, Nom Tarekita Takadimitaka Takadimi Takajanu Takadimi Na

Text has no translation: The piece is created with onomatopoeic sounds that imitate the sound of the Indian drum, the tabla.

Sing and Make Music Trent Worthington Text: Psalm 96, Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16

Text: Psalm 96, Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16

Cantate Domino canticum novum; cantate Domino omnis terra.

Cantate Domino,

et benedicite nomini ejus

O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth.

Sing unto the Lord, bless his name;

Teach one another, teach with song. Teach one another with songs from the spirit,

Teach one another with song.

Chantent de votre coeur

au Seigneur.

Sing and make music, from your heart to the Lord!

Sing in jule hart tot eer van die Here.

Sing and make music, from your heart to the Lord!

Alleluia

Enjoy the Silence Martin Gore / Depeche Mode Arr. Eric Whitacre

Words like violence
Break the silence
Come crashing in
Into my little world
Painful to me
Pierce right through me
Can't you understand?
Oh, my little girl

All I ever wanted
All I ever needed
Is here in my arms
Words are very unnecessary
They can only do harm

Vows are spoken
To be broken
Feelings are intense
Words are trivial
Pleasures remain
So does the pain
Words are meaningless
And forgettable

All I ever wanted All I ever needed Is here in my arms Words are very unnecessary They can only do harm

Tapestry Laura Hawley Texts by Jeni Couzyn

1. A Speck in the Cosmos Beholding the Cosmos

By the still pool I settled to wait and watch upside down steeples spidering down. Slugs love me snails love me foxes crush me for bed-linen each fist of rain each withering palm of drought.

As squirrel I leapt. as bird I'd hover here is my body that kicks and flies at will – that heady meat.

That which knows itself immortal, but must die a speck in the cosmos beholding the cosmos

2. Remembering Angels

Ocean remembers the colour of angels spanning blue horizons.

Blue stone remembers their eyes Lapis flicking sunlight a rim of blue iris Sapphire holds the gaze steady sparking Tanzanite fills in the pupils.

Wind holds true remembering wings snaking with light scented breath in a swish of leaves

throngs of them fireworks too bright to see aware of us though we glimpse them once in a lifetime. We should remember Angels.

3. Warrior

I stand by my life.
I stand in darkness, like on a rock in the middle of a chuming river.
I stand by the choices I made, my actions wholehearted, generous, and brave I stand by my life and I sing, my silence a drop in the heaving sea of the singers with slit tongue.
I sing though no echo comes back.
I sing as a warrior into the silence.

A serene fish barely moving opens its mouth to receive my syllables as they swim but I will not stop.

I'm witness to the earth and cosmos this intricate heart of mine
I bring to union with the One, this wild rider reigned to truth – that uncontrollable black bull of sorrow.
If I could hang out my life in sunlight it would spark, a tapestry of brilliants in a fine pattern, a web of meaning each stitch with its meaning like a shadow.

I stand by my life – this vibrating nuclear sun this wholeness that has been my life.
I pulse with fullness a bee with wings beating two hundred times every second
I hum with fullness orchestra in my cells, choir of my mind singing lighthouse spinning light waves in a polar sky.

Gazing outward at you from my centre I see galaxies. The light waves travel outward through time. The sound waves travel looping and winding harmonies in indelible singing.

This life I inhabit will hold its hieroglyph through eternity the sword dance of a warrior brave, present.

The patterns of the dance remain in air as sounds do, as light does an energetic transmission for light years. No-one on earth needs to read this or agree or endorse it.

I acknowledge my beautiful life.

4. Around You I Turn

Because the world has you in it the sun is safe in heaven my heart will not revert to ice-age psyche can perform her intricate photosynthesis and the dark will not engulf me

You're on my side
as sunshine supports the cause of light
greet me with every breath
as dawn is constant
meet me with intelligent heart
as sunlight etches lines around
the ten thousand things
and so your love
assures me an uncontested right
an un-ambivalent place on earth

When I forget you the fogs close in but the axis you burned in me remembers your alchemy you're my sun still my gravitational pull you hold the particles in orbit around you I turn.

Apple Tree Words & Music by Aurora Aksnes, Odd Martin Skaalnes and Magnus Skylstad Arranged by Katerina Gimon

All of my life I've been hunting I've been a girl, I've been a boy Digging my feet into the ground Like an apple tree Wanting to live with a purpose

Skin is a word, love is not a sin People are bad, people are good Just like the moon is a stone But it's a star when it's dark And now she's hiding

If you've seen what a heart is You've seen its colour If I ever knew how we could guide it

I would take care of its children Become their mother If I ever knew how we could hide it Hide it

Let her save the world She is just a girl Let him save them all He is just a boy

Hunger is quiet, if you do it right Hunter is loud and predictable Scaring away every prey So they are gone Before the hunter arrives

Would you be kind, and put away your sword You cannot cut away what we got You cannot kill what we are We are not here In physical form

You've seen where the knife is Its dark location If I ever knew how we could fight it I would cut into our anger Make pure emotion If I ever knew how we could hide it

Let her save the world She is just a girl Let him save them all He is just a boy

Can you carry the weight of mortality?
The explosions around you are your symphony

Let her save the world She is just a girl Let him save them all He is just a boy



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OUR NEXT CONCERT

9 JUNE 24 **LIGHT ALWAYS RETURNS LIGHT**

3:00 PM **EXPERIENCE SERIES**

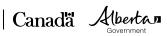


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