



31st Season

Elmer Iseler Singers

Dr. Lydia Adams, Conductor

The Messiah

Elmer Iseler Singers, Amadeus Choir and Orchestra conducted by Lydia Adams
Friday, December 4th 2009 at Metropolitan United Church at 8pm

"Handel understands effect better than any of us" – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

For Immediate Release – Toronto, November 17, 2009: Toronto's **Elmer Iseler Singers** and conductor/Canadian Music Centre ambassador **Lydia Adams** welcome in the holiday season with the vibrant melodies of *The Messiah* by George Friedrich Handel on **Friday, December 4th** at **Metropolitan United Church**. Continuing their annual tradition, the acclaimed Elmer Iseler Singers join forces with the **Amadeus Choir** to revive the outstanding and ingenious baroque work, possibly one of the most successful pieces ever written.

Handel composed *The Messiah* in 24 days without once leaving his house. The oratorio was first performed in Dublin on April 13th, 1742, and immediately won huge popular success. "Words are wanting to express the exquisite Delight it afforded to the admiring crowded Audience. The Sublime, the Grand, and the Tender, adapted to the most elevated, majestic, and moving Words, conspired to transport and charm the ravished Heart and Ear..." These were sentiments expressed in Faulkner's Dublin Journal following the first performance in Neals Musick Hall in Dublin. This premiere proved to be a personal triumph to Handel and helped restore his self-confidence during a very difficult time in his life.

This year again, the **Elmer Iseler Singers** team up with outstanding Canadian soloists: **Meredith Hall** (soprano), **Allyson McHardy** (mezzo-soprano), **Michael Colvin** (tenor) and **Peter McGillivray** (bass), and welcome back the two featured trumpet players, **Robert Venables** and **Robert DiVito** and the distinguished Toronto organist, **Patricia Wright**. A hand-picked orchestra of accomplished Canadian musicians augments the luscious-sounding choruses of Handel's *Messiah*.

Need a stocking stuffer? This Messiah performance is the perfect opportunity to obtain the newly released CD of **Peter-Anthony Togni's "Lamentations of Jeremiah"** on the prestigious international ECM label featuring conductor **Lydia Adams**, the **Elmer Iseler Singers** with bass clarinet improviser/virtuoso **Jeff Reilly** and soprano **Rebecca Whelan**. The biography, *ELMER ISELER, Choral Visionary* by Walter Pitman – Dundurn Press and various Elmer Iseler Singers' recordings will also be available.

Handel's MESSIAH conducted by Lydia Adams

Friday, December 4th 2009 at 8:00 p.m.

Metropolitan United Church: 56 Queen St. East (at Bond), Toronto

Tickets: \$50 Reg. \$45 Sen. \$10. Students w/ valid student I.D.

Group Rates Also Available.

For information about tickets and the Pre-Messiah Dinner, please call: 416-217-0537

<http://www.elmerisellersingers.com/>

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