



ROY THOMSON HALL

PROGRAMME

Roy Thomson Hall presents

**25TH Annual Free Noon Hour
Choir & Organ Concerts**

ELMER ISELER SINGERS
Choral and Organ Tapestry

TUE MAY 7, 2024 • 12PM



ELMER ISELER SINGERS

Choral and Organ Tapestry

LYDIA ADAMS, *conductor*
SHAWN GRENKE, *piano/organ*

SOPRANOS:

Amy Dodington
Clara Krausse
Claire Renouf
Cathy Robinson
Emily Taub*

ALTOS:

Karen Freedman
Gillian Grant
Manisa'ya Jayasundera*
Matthew Muggeridge
Valerie Nunn

TENORS:

Jaiden Boutilier
Charles Davidson
Eric MacKeracher
Mitchell Pady
Sharang Sharma

BASSES:

Gordon Burnett
Bradley Christensen
Bryan Martin
Michael Sawarna
Paul Winkelmanns

* *EIS James T. Chestnutt*
Choral Scholars (2023-2024)

We are thrilled to be able to offer this free concert series thanks to the tremendous support of the Edwards Charitable Foundation and our community of education and outreach donors. Help us share the gift of music with our community by making a donation today or by donation upon arrival at the Hall. Your support ensures we can continue delivering free programming like Choir & Organ for years to come.

Roy Thomson Hall's Free Choir and Organ Concerts celebrate the artistry of outstanding Canadian choirs and organists and feature the magnificent Gabriel Kney pipe organ.

Please join us for our next concert – "Shout for Joy" on Monday, June 3, 2024 featuring The Nathaniel Dett Chorale.

For information about the 2023-24 season,
visit roythomsonhall.mhrth.com/tickets/series/choir-and-organ-2024

PSALM 148**

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

LONG ROAD

Ēriks Ešenvalds (b. 1977); poem by Paulīna Bārda (1890-1983)

Soloists: Claire Renouf and Emily Taub

THE MAGIC OF ELEANOR DALEY**

Eleanor Daley* (b. 1955)

trinitas I

trinitas III

grandmother moon

O Be Joyful

poem by Mary Louise Martin,
Millbrook Mi'kmaq First Nation, N.S.*

SUN ON WATER

Hussein Janmohamed* (b. 1969)

Text: Hindu & Indic Ismaili Muslim Traditional; Psalm 130

A HYMN FOR ST. CECILIA**

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

CELTIC SUITE

Robert Burns (1759-1796); Iain MacLachlan (1927-1995);

arr. L. Adams*

Comin 'Thro the Rye

The Dark Island

Loch Lomond

Afton Water

The Hundred Pipers

Soloist: Mitchell Pady, tenor

Soloist: Paul Winkelmanns, baritone

Soloist: Mitchell Pady, tenor

WE RISE AGAIN

Leon Dubinsky, arr. L. Adams

* Canadian composer, poet or arranger

** works featuring the Roy Thomson Hall Gabriel Kney organ

Choral and Organ Tapestry

The Elmer Iseler Singers' program today highlights brilliant music for choir and organ featuring the spectacular **Roy Thomson Hall Gabriel Kney** organ. We begin with the brilliant Psalm 148 by British composer **Gustav Holst**, the composer perhaps best known for his great orchestral work *The Planets*. *Psalm 148* is built on a well-known hymn tune and builds from a quiet opening towards a breathtaking finish.

Long Road is an amazing piece by Latvian composer **Ēriks Ešenvalds** on a poem by Latvian poet **Paulina Bārda**, telling of her love for her departed husband as she looks across the vastness of space to a distant star.

Sun on Water by Canadian composer **Hussein Janmohamed** was written while he was an Ontario Heritage Trust Scholar at well-known Landscape artist Doris McCarthy's home, Fool's Paradise, portraying the sunrise over Lake Ontario, as seen from McCarthy's home on the Scarborough Bluffs.

Eleanor Daley is a well-known Canadian composer whose compositions are performed throughout the world. Organist Shawn Grenke has chosen two movements from her *trinitas* suite, and the Singers have chosen her stunning description of Mi'kmaq poet **Mary Louise Martin's** *grandmother moon*, and Daley's uplifting Psalm 100, *O Be Joyful in the Lord* to celebrate this inspiring Canadian composer.

A Hymn for St. Cecilia by British composer **Herbert Howells**, was written on a stunning poem of the same name by **Ursula Vaughan Williams**, who was the wife of composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. The poem is written in tribute to the Patron Saint of Music and Howells, with a stirring melody and sensational descant, gives us a glorious and uplifting portrayal of the joys that music brings to our lives.

Robert Burns was a beloved poet and lyricist who is considered the national poet of Scotland. His words and melodies never cease to strike the heartstrings, and the final work of the set, *100 Pipers* is a rousing marching song in praise of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

We Rise Again is an inspirational work by Cape Breton composer, **Leon Dubinsky**, sung by choirs internationally, which lifts people's spirits in good times and bad, and also shows how Canada's welcoming arms for newcomers is so valued, and that our future hope is in our children.

The Elmer Iseler Singers, conductor Lydia Adams and organist Shawn Grenke thank the Roy Thomson Hall concert series for the kind invitation to sing today's concert. We welcome people to learn about the choir and to hear of future EIS concerts on our website: elmerisellersingers.com Thank you all for coming!



ELMER ISELER SINGERS

The JUNO Award-winning Elmer Iseler Singers (EIS), conducted by artistic director Lydia Adams since 1998, is singing its 45th Concert Season in 2023/24. This 20-voice professional choral ensemble, founded by the late

Dr. Elmer Iseler in 1979, has thrilled audiences internationally, and led the way in developing exciting new choral works and experiences, building a stellar reputation in Canada, the United States and abroad, performing a wide range of repertoire with a focus on Canadian composers.

EIS presents a concert series in Toronto each season, and the choir is featured as guest artists and collaborators with many professional colleagues, including Esprit Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and the Gryphon Trio, among others. The EIS tours regularly throughout Canada, East, West and North, engaging community singers and conductors of all ages through workshops and concert performances. Most recently, the EIS and TSO received a 2019 GRAMMY nomination and 2019 JUNO award for their Ralph Vaughan Williams' Chandos CD recording, with Peter Oundjian conducting.

The Elmer Iseler Singers are dedicated to the education of emerging choral singers, conductors and composers, and sponsor conducting and compositional workshops, as well as the James T. Chestnutt Scholarship, a choral mentorship initiative with Lydia Adams and the Singers. Through their collaboration as Associate Choirs, the Elmer Iseler Singers are delighted to share their skills and knowledge with the VIVA Singers in their stated aims of performance artistry, vocal music education, inclusion, leadership as well as mentoring and community.



LYDIA ADAMS

Lydia Adams, the distinguished conductor and champion of Canadian choral music, celebrates her 25th year as Conductor and Artistic Director of the Elmer Iseler Singers. She leads the ensemble in commissioning, premiering, and performing works by Canadian composers, showcasing the country's rich musical heritage. With a background in music education from Mount Allison University and extensive experience conducting across Canada and internationally, Adams has earned acclaim for her innovative programming and dedication to nurturing young talent. Honored with prestigious awards including the Order of Canada, she continues to make a profound impact on the Canadian music scene, enriching audiences with her passion and musicality.



SHAWN GRENKE

Shawn Grenke is a multifaceted musician, conductor, and educator. He is Visiting Guest Conductor and Professor in Conducting at Brock University's Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine & Performing Arts, Director of Music at Eglinton St. George's United Church in Toronto, Collaborative Pianist with the Elmer Iseler Singers of Toronto, and Artistic Director and Conductor of the 80-voice Achill Choral Society. With degrees from Mount Allison University and the University of Toronto, Shawn has performed globally, received accolades such as the Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Music Degree at the University of Alberta.

UPCOMING SHOWS



THE NATHANIEL DETT CHORALE

Shout for Joy

MON JUN 3, 2024 • 12PM

**FOR TICKETS VISIT
ROYTHOMSONHALL.COM**

**OR CALL
416-872-4255**

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