



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

100 YEARS
1918-2018

Nocturnes

U of T Women's Chorus

Dr. Elaine Choi, *conductor*

Eunseong Cho, *collaborative pianist*

U of T Men's Chorus

Dr. Mark Ramsay, *conductor*

Kevin Stolz, *collaborative pianist*

Sunday, October 28, 2018

2:30 pm

Church of the Redeemer, 162 Bloor Street West

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates.

For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River.

Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

Program

U of T Women's Chorus

Dr. Elaine Choi, *conductor*
Eunseong Cho, *collaborative pianist*

Alleluia Stephanie Martin*
(b. 1962)

Beau Soir Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)
arr. Linda Spevacek
(b. 1945)

Child with the Starry Crayon Eleanor Daley*
(b. 1955)

Maddy Battista, *soprano*

Stars Larysa Kuzmenko*
(b. 1956)

Night Larysa Kuzmenko

Noche de Lluvia Sid Robinovitch*
(b. 1942)

Hymn to Vena from Gustav Holst
Choral Hymns from the *Rig Veda* (third group) (1874-1934)

Olivia Lu, Lauren Levorson-Wong, Mimi Ye, Ana Isabella Castro, *sopranos*
Emma Moss, Lucy Cheng, Yelena Gavrilova, Chiki Ogawa, *altos*
Christina Kant, *harp*

*Canadian Composers

Combined Choir

“Gloria Tibi” from *MASS*

Leonard Bernstein
(1918-1990)

Angelo Moretti, *tenor*

“Gloria in excelsis” from *MASS*

Leonard Bernstein

Qiuchen Wang, *percussionist*
Eunseong Cho, *piano*

U of T Men’s Chorus

Dr. Mark Ramsay, *conductor*
Kevin Stolz, *collaborative pianist*

The Dying Rebel

Traditional Irish
arr. Mark Sirett*
(b. 1952)

The Ballad of Little Musgrave and Lady Barnard

Benjamin Britten
(1913-1976)

Peace

Stephen Chatman*
(b. 1950)

Mad

Timothy C. Takach
(b. 1978)

Sure On This Shining Night

Samuel Barber
(1910-1981)
arr. Jacob Narverud
(b. 1986)

Combined Choir

Sure On This Shining Night

Morten Lauridsen
(b. 1943)

Kevin Stolz, *piano*

Program Notes for U of T Women's Chorus

Canadian composer and conductor Stephanie Martin is associate professor of music at York University's School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design; director of Schola Magdalena; conductor emeritus of Pax Christi Chorale; and past director of music at the historic Church of Saint Mary Magdalene in Toronto. **Alleluia** is a five-part round that can be performed by any combination of voices and is from a set of two pieces that also includes "Tantum Ergo."

Beau Soir (Beautiful Evening) is a French art song, originally scored for solo voice and piano. In this program, the Women's Chorus is performing a choral arrangement by Linda Spevacek. Written by a teenage Claude Debussy with words by poet Paul Bourget, this piece paints the picture of a beautiful evening as the sun sets into the rose-coloured river. A sense of peacefulness is created by long legato phrases, paired with fluid constant triplets in the piano accompaniment.

Child with the Starry Crayon was commissioned in 2004, as a joint collaboration between Oriana Women's Choir and the Toronto District School Board. Composer Eleanor Daley set music to selected student poetry (poem by Grade 5 student Dinushi Munasinghe) as part of the special Poetry and Music Project. Daley plays with textures, alternating between unison melodic lines and dense three-part harmonies, unfolding the endless imagination of the one child with the starry crayon. Elaborate piano accompaniment with rolled chords and arpeggiated movement creates a sense of awestruck wonder.

We continue the innocence of children's depiction of night skies with two short pieces by Canadian composer Larysa Kuzmenko. **Stars** and **Night** are two poems by students from Faywood Public School. *Stars* is a light, cheerful piece, depicting the shimmering of the stars. Its energetic spirit echoes the brightness of children's voices. The poem *Night* tells the story of haunting shadows. Like the atmosphere of the night, the music is both mysterious and ethereal, depicting the shapes and moods of the underlying poetry.

Noche de Lluvia (Rainy Night) is the third movement of *Canciones por las Americas* by Canadian composer Sid Robinovitch - a set reflecting different aspects of Latin American culture. *Noche de Lluvia* uses the evocative words of Uruguayan poet and feminist Juana de Ibarbourou (1892-1979), also known as Juana de America. The Latin American rhythms used throughout create a scene of great sensuality both inside a bedroom and outside, where the rain is tapping with “little fingers” on the windowpane.

In the early 20th century, inspired by his Theosophist stepmother, British composer Gustav Holst developed an immense interest in the religious literature and poetry of India. *The Rig Veda* is a set of over 1,000 hymns, singing praises to higher beings such as Agni, Vena, Indra and so on. Translated from Sanskrit to English by Holst himself, he has set 14 *Rig Veda* hymns into four groups of Choral Hymns. The third group, written in 1910, is a set of four pieces written for women’s chorus with harp accompaniment. To conclude our set with pieces dedicated to Night skies, we have chosen to perform **Hymn to Vena** (The sun rising through the mist). This work paints the appearance of Vena, the child of cloud and mist appearing on the ridge of the sky. The elaborate harp accompaniment helps create a sense of awe and mystical wonder throughout. Women’s Chorus will be performing the remaining three hymns from this group at concerts on February 3 and March 31, 2019.

As the world comes together to celebrate the centennial of iconic American composer, conductor, and humanitarian Leonard Bernstein (1918-2018), we have chosen to include excerpts of *MASS* in this program. Unlike a traditional mass setting, this composition is a large scale theatrical piece scored for singers, players, dancers and more. Bernstein envisioned *MASS* not as a concert piece, but rather, an eclectic staged dramatic performance. *MASS* incorporates music of many genres such as blues, rock, gospel, folk, Broadway, and jazz idioms, reflecting the multifaceted nature of Bernstein’s career. In *MASS*, “**Gloria Tibi**” and “**Gloria in Excelsis**” follow a reflective orchestral movement, *Meditation No. 1*. These two energetic and exuberant movements offer highest praise and rejoicing to God.

Program notes by Elaine Choi

Program Notes for U of T Men's Chorus

The Dying Rebel is a traditional Irish folk song that dates from the early 20th century. Cork, located on the southwest coast of the island, is known as the Rebel County in honour of its long association in the forefront of many uprisings to overthrow British rule. This poignant ballad recounts the tragic death of a young rebel from Cork during the famous 1916 Easter Rising which proclaimed the Irish Republic independent of Britain.

Program note by Mark Sirett

English composer Benjamin Britten wrote ***The Ballad of Little Musgrave and Lady Barnard*** in 1943, the same year of his well-known cantata, *Rejoice in the Lamb*. He dedicated the work to 'Richard Wood and the musicians of Oflag VIIb,' a prisoner-of-war camp where the work was performed several times over the span of two months under the musical direction of Lieutenant Richard Wood. The text comes from an anonymous tale of adultery, betrayal, and regret. Britten's keen attention to the text comes alive throughout the work in the dialogue of two secret lovers, the frantic actions of a page boy, and the anger and hurt felt by a betrayed lover. Today, the work remains as a staple in the tenor/bass choir repertoire.

Peace, written by Canadian composer Stephen Chatman, was commissioned by the Cantabile Men's Chorus of Kingston, Ontario. Throughout the lyrical work, melodic lines frequently begin in unison and slowly unfold to four-part harmony throughout each phrase, highlighting Teasdale's beautiful poetry.

Mad is a playful and poignant work created by American composer Timothy C. Takach in 2014. Based on a poem by Naomi Shihab Nye, the song portrays the relationship between mother and child and uses musical text painting to highlight imagery in the poem. The work was the result of a commission by the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota.

Samuel Barber penned his famous setting of ***Sure On This Shining Night*** (from *Four Songs*, Op. 13) in 1938 for solo voice and piano as well as his own arrangement for mixed SATB chorus in the same year. This arrangement for tenor/bass voices by Jacob Narverud mirrors the lyricism found in both of Barber's settings.

Morten Lauridsen composed his setting of James Agee's poem ***Sure On This Shining Night*** as the third movement in a choral cycle titled *Nocturnes*. Lauridsen explains, "I set the verse very much like a song from the American musical theatre stage and it should be sung in that manner." It remains as one of Lauridsen's most popular works today and is best described by Norwegian composer, Ola Gjeilo: "A piece like *Sure on This Shining Night*, which is my own favorite, has a warm, beautiful melody with elegantly flowing vocal and piano accompaniment, and it's both passionate and peaceful at the same time."

Program notes by Mark Ramsay



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Biographies

Dr. Elaine Choi contributes to Toronto's vibrant choral community as a conductor, educator, adjudicator, and collaborative pianist. She is the Director of Music at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, President of Choirs Ontario, and the conductor of the University of Toronto Women's Chorus. Elaine holds a B.Mus Ed, M.Mus and DMA in choral conducting from the University of Toronto where she studied with Dr. Doreen Rao and Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt. She was a recipient of the Elmer Iseler Fellowship in Choral Conducting and is the 2018 recipient of the William and Waters graduation award from the University of Toronto. Elaine has recently founded Babel, an SATB chamber ensemble with a mission to bridge cultures with choral music by promoting compositions by Canadian and Chinese composers.

Dr. Mark Ramsay is the artistic director of the Exultate Chamber Singers as well as the conductor of the University of Toronto Men's Chorus, the U of T Scarborough Concert Choir, and the MNjcc Community Choir. In addition to his conducting work, he is an adjunct professor at the U of T Faculty of Music where he teaches graduate choral conducting lessons, an undergraduate course in choral music education, and works as an administrator for the choral area. He holds a DMA degree in choral conducting from U of T where he was a student of Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt. He was a recipient of an Elmer Iseler National Graduate Fellowship in Choral Conducting, and multiple U of T Fellowships and an Ontario Graduate Scholarship.

Being a versatile musician as an organist, conductor, harpsichordist and collaborative pianist, **Eunseong Cho** has contributed her talent to Toronto's music community for many years. She graduated from the University of Toronto with a Master's degree in organ performance under the tutelage of Dr. John Tuttle. She studied with Sir Colin Tilney, and was a harpsichordist for the U of T Early Music Ensemble under the direction of Jeanne Lamon. She also studied choral conducting with Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt. She serves as music director at The Korean Philadelphia Presbyterian Church and as collaborative pianist for U of T Women's Chamber Choir and Women's Chorus.

Kevin Stolz is a pianist based in Toronto. Hailing from the mountains of upstate New York, he completed undergraduate studies in jazz and contemporary music at Humber College in Toronto, receiving his Bachelor of Music in 2014. After graduation, Kevin was active in the contemporary scene, performing with alt-pop band Andi on CBC TV and venues throughout Ontario and Quebec. He also produced the acclaimed jazz big band album *The Twilight Fall* by Chelsea McBride's Socialist Night School. Kevin has now returned to his original passion of classical performance, and he is privileged to study with Steven Philcox in the Master's program in collaborative piano at the University of Toronto.

Personnel

U of T Women's Chorus

Dr. Elaine Choi,
conductor
Eunseong Cho,
collaborative pianist
Teresa Lin and Emma
Moss, *choir managers*

Soprano

Leticia Balogh
Maddy Battista
Ana Isabella Castro
Katharine Chiu
Maria Deng
Amelia Depiero
Wenyuling Ding
Maria Fedyushina
Andrea Franco
Alexa Frankian
Yvonne Gao
Katherine Ho
Tanya Humeniuk
Paige Jeffrey
Lexie Laengert
Kitty Lau
Lauren Levorson-Wong
Teresa Lin
Taylor Lovelace
Olivia Lu
Jodie Ng
Ismene Papadopoulou
Lydia Shan
Diyara Toktamyssova
Julie Wang
Joelle Wong
Jocelyn Yang
Mimi Ye
Cindy Yu
Yuhan Zhang

Alto

Annie Cao
Lucy Cheng
Chanel Chow
Hillary Chu
Rosemonde Desjardins
Yelena Gavrilova
Reina Kwak
Lin Li
Sarah Marchack
Tina Meng
Emma Moss
Emily Ninavaie
Chiki Ogawa
Tessa Prasuhn
Rina Shim
Carina Shum
Rebecca Synard
Emily Tam
Teresa Tang
Reyna Yan
Futian Yao
Sher Yao
Yin Yin
Mia Zheng
Jane Zuchelkowski

U of T Men's Chorus

Dr. Mark Ramsay,
conductor
Kevin Stolz,
collaborative pianist
Qattani Legroulx,
choir manager

Tenor

Joey Labute
Jeong Wu Lee
Nathan Richards
Ivan Tapel
Jacob Thomas
Kevin Yue

Baritone

Michael Brennan
Gabriel Cordova
Michael Denomme
Crescenzo DiCecco
Thomas Dobrovich
Jeremy Hernandez Lum
Tong
John Krutschke
Kevin Lau
Hinners Leung
Arthur Li
Gordon Mok
Brent Nuevo
Oliver Peart
Mikelis Rogers
Stephen Shi
Evan Tanovich
Ben Yeo

Bass

Jaime Barrow
Ken Chen
Benjamin Fitzpatrick
Franciz Gonzales
Qattani Legroulx
Luciano Maizel
Stephane Martin
Demers
Mykola Pyskir
Andrew Stanco

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Karen Wiseman,
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Kurt Weill's *Street Scene*

U of T Opera's Fall Main Stage Production
Thu Nov 22, Fri Nov 23 and Sat Nov 24 at 7:30 pm
Sun Nov 25 at 2:30 pm
MacMillan Theatre, 80 Queen's Park

A Child's Prayer

Choristers from the Schola Cantorum & Theatre of Early Music
Sat Nov 24 at 5 pm
Trinity College Chapel, 6 Hoskin Avenue

For the Joy of the Singing

U of T Choirs
Tribute to Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt
Sun Dec 2 at 2:30 pm
MacMillan Theatre, 80 Queen's Park

U of T Symphony Orchestra

with Gena van Oosten, mezzo soprano
and Julia Mirzoev, violin
Fri Dec 7 at 7:30 pm
MacMillan Theatre, 80 Queen's Park

Tickets and information: music.utoronto.ca | 416-408-0208

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