



**Toronto
Mendelssohn
Choir**

Toronto Mendelssohn Choir
and Nathaniel Dett Chorale
join together to sing

SACRED MUSIC FOR A SACRED SPACE

Brainerd Blyden-Taylor conductor
Simon Rivard conductor

YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Toronto Mendelssohn Choir

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, Artistic Director

SACRED MUSIC FOR A SACRED SPACE

Tonight, we are thrilled to welcome the Nathaniel Dett Chorale and its founder and artistic director Brainerd Blyden-Taylor. The TMC and the Nathaniel Dett Chorale join their voices together to present music that draws on different influences and traditions, while sharing a common thread: humanity's belief that amidst the most adverse circumstances imaginable, a higher, transcending world is enveloping us, and that a strong voice is necessary to evoke it.

Thank you for joining us tonight - whether in person at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto, or online from the comfort of your home. Please enjoy the concert.

The TMC acknowledges that the land on which we perform is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

We are also live streaming this concert across Canada and the world—to lands that are the traditional territories of other Indigenous and First Nations peoples.

We are honoured to share our music across these lands.

Concert Program

D. Brainerd Blyden-Taylor,
conductor

Simon Rivard, conductor

Nathaniel Dett Chorale

Toronto Mendelssohn Choir

Steal Away - Spiritual; arr. Diedre Robinson

Crucifixion - Adolphus Hailstork

Mary Was the Queen of Galilee - Spiritual; arr. Wendell Whalum

Soloist: Ineza Mugisha, soprano

Don't You Weep No More, Mary - R. Nathaniel Dett

Go Not Far From Me, O God - R. Nathaniel Dett

Soloist: Andrew Adridge, baritone

Prayer for Ukraine, verse 1 - Oleksandr Konysky & Mykola Lysenko

All-Night Vigil, Op. 37 - Sergei Rachmaninoff (sung in Church Slavonic)

1. Come, Let Us Worship

2. Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Soloist: Rebecca Claborn, mezzo-soprano

3. Blessed is the Man

4. Gladsome Light

5. Lord, Now Lettest Thou

Soloist: Nicholas Nicolaidis, tenor

6. Rejoice, O Virgin

7. The Six Psalms

8. Praise the Name of the Lord

9. Blessed Art Thou, O Lord

10. Having Beheld the Resurrection

11. My Soul Magnifies the Lord

12. The Great Doxology

13. The Troparion "Today Salvation"

14. The Troparion "Thou Didst Rise"

15. To Thee, the Victorious Leader

Prayer for Ukraine, verse 2

Program Notes

Welcome to Sacred Music for a Sacred Space

When the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and Nathaniel Dett Chorale planned this concert in the summer of 2021, the central goal was to bring our two musical communities together. We hoped to learn from each other, to make music together, and to consider how two seemingly disparate sacred music traditions – African-American spirituals and Eastern Orthodox chant – might share connections and insights into human suffering and into the necessity of hope and liberation. These are still the goals of tonight's concert, and yet, given Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine, the second half of tonight's program obviously stands in a much different context than it did in the summer of 2021.

The invasion of Ukraine at the time we were beginning rehearsals for this concert prompted extensive internal discussion and reflection, and necessitates setting the performance of the Rachmaninoff in a context for today. We do not believe that the art, music, and people of Russia are responsible for the actions of a tyrant. Indeed, many Russians have publicly denounced and protested the invasion of Ukraine at great personal risk. Notably, **All-Night Vigil** also has a history of subversion: the sixth movement, "Rejoice, O Virgin," was the basis for Russian protest group Pussy Riot's protest anthem "Mother of God, Chase Putin Away." Furthermore, Rachmaninoff, who declared himself to be in self-exile from Russia in 1917 and never returned, is not associated with the current Russian regime and performing his work does not benefit the Russian state.

We have added Ukrainian composer Mykola Lysenko's **Prayer for Ukraine** to tonight's program. Set to a text by Oleksandr Konysky, the 1885 hymn is a plea to God to "protect our beloved Ukraine." In addition to being sung as a hymn in Ukrainian Orthodox church services, it was also performed frequently during the Ukrainian War of Independence (1917-1920). We sing it tonight – as have many ensembles throughout the world over the past month – to express solidarity and support to the Ukrainian people, diaspora, and state.

The first half of the program, of course, addresses a different sacred music tradition, and with it, another form of oppression. African-American spirituals developed as an oral tradition among enslaved Africans in the United States from 1619-1865 (Canada, it should be noted, also enslaved both African and

Indigenous individuals from 1671-1834). Spirituals took the language and teachings of Christian traditions taught on plantations and transformed them into messages and meanings that, in African-Canadian composer Nathaniel Dett's words, allowed enslaved people to "give voice to [their] inmost soul's desire, without fear of arousing suspicion even when in the presence of [their] master." Through the spiritual, it was possible to participate in subversion and resistance in plain sight. The songs were used to pass on secret codes about escape through the Underground Railroad (**Steal Away**), to acknowledge unthinkable pain and suffering or identify with a suffering figure (**Crucifixion** and **Mary Was the Queen of Galilee**), and to find moments of hope and comfort (**Don't You Weep No More, Mary** and **Go Not Far From Me, O God**). The spirituals on this program take us, the audience, through a journey that encompasses all of these components of the spiritual's history. Yet most importantly, they collectively acknowledge the reality of the spiritual as being, in Mr. Brainerd Blyden-Taylor's words, "a music that helped sing freedom into existence." While slavery has been abolished, our society is still not free of rampant racial inequities, and so, as Mr. Blyden-Taylor explains, spirituals "are sung still, because there is still work to be done."

As members of a pluralistic society, we all undoubtedly come to this concert and to these musical traditions carrying many different belief systems. Yet there are surely some things we all hold to be sacred, and to be worth fighting for, among them our shared humanity, the preciousness of freedom, and the worth of compassion, empathy, and human dignity. We hope that tonight's concert affirms these values, provides moments of reflection and strength in these challenging times – and that that strength can be carried forward, into the work still to be done.

- Rena Roussin, writing on behalf of Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and Nathaniel Dett Chorale leadership

Quotations from Nathaniel Dett are taken from his 1936 essay "Understanding the Negro Spiritual."

Program Notes were written by **Rena Roussin**.



Rena Roussin is a doctoral candidate in musicology at the University of Toronto, and is currently writing her PhD dissertation on constructions of disability and gender in Joseph Haydn's late oratorios. As a Métis and settler woman with additional Haida ancestry, she also has a major interest in the ways art music in Canada interacts with Indigenous artists and communities in efforts to realize reconciliation. She is active in public musicology, and serves on the curatorial/editorial board of Musicology Now and the Canadian Opera

Company's Indigenous Circle of Artists. In addition to her work in musicology, Rena is a pianist and vocalist.

The TMC supports emerging composers and conductors through two major education and outreach programs.

The Choral Composition Competition for emerging composers in Canada welcomes unpublished compositions. The winner of the 2021 competition is Benjamin Sigerson for *Of Rest*. He wins the \$1000 Debbie Fleming Prize for Choral Composition and the work will be performed at our Free Community concert on June 28.

The Choral Conductors' Symposium returns under Artistic Director Jean-Sébastien Vallée in June 2022 and will welcome five emerging conductors from Canada and the U.S. for an intensive week of workshops and rehearsals. Enjoy the concluding Symposium concert—in person or online—on June 28.

Text and Translations

Steal Away

Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus.
Steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord, he calls me, calls me by the thunder;
ain't got long to stay here, my Lord.

Green trees bending, sinners stand a trembling.
The trumpet sounds within my soul,
ain't got long to stay here.

Crucifixion

My Lord, my Lord.
They crucified my Lord, and he never said a mumblin' word.
Not a word.

They nailed him to a tree and he never said a mumblin' word.
Not a word.

They pierced him in the side, and he never said a mumblin' word.
O my Lord, my Lord, not a word.

He bowed his head and died, and he never said a mumblin' word.
Oh my Lord, not a word.

And he never said a mumblin' word, my Lord.

Mary Was the Queen of Galilee

Who was Mary?
Mary was the queen of Galilee.

Mary rode to Bethlehem, Mary was the queen of Galilee
There she brought forth the Holy Lamb, Mary was the queen of Galilee
Mary saw him crucified, Mary was the queen of Galilee
When the Lord cried out an' died, Mary was the queen of Galilee
Oh she wept and Martha moaned, Mary was the queen of Galilee
Sky turned purple all aroun', Mary was the queen of Galilee

Now, after Sunday down at the Tomb,
When the stone was rolled away, She didn't find her Lord,
Angel came unto her, Telling the good news that
Jesus Christ is risen an' will appear again.

Who was Mary?
Mary was the queen of Galilee.

Don't You Weep No More, Mary

Don't you weep no more, Mary, Sigh a no more, Martha,
Jesus rose third day in-a that morning!

My Jesus went to Galilee, Because he promised for to set me free,
Rose third day in that morning.
They nailed him to the cursed tree, and there he hung for you and me.
Rose third day in that morning.

The angel came down from above, He came down on the wings of love;
Rose third day in that morning.
O hallelujah, on that day, The angel rolled that stone away.
Rose third day in that morning.

Go Not Far From Me, O God

Go not far from me, O God.

Cast, O cast me not away, Fling around me thy salvation
O hear me while I pray! O hear me, O God.

I am weary with my moaning, Sore my soul and sick with fears;
Dawns the daytime on my groaning, Falls ev'ning on my tears.

O now to be my comfort, hasten, thou origin and end of time;
Not in thy hot displeasure chasten, O God of mercy, God sublime!
Hasten now to be my comfort, O God sublime.

Prayer for Ukraine

Ukrainian transliteration, and English literary translation by Dmytro Shostak

Bozhe velykyi, yedynyi,
Nam Ukrainu khrany,
Voli i svitu prominniam,
Ty yii osiny.

Svitlom nauky i znannia
Nas, ditey, prosvity,
V chystii liubovi do kraiu,
Ty nas, Bozhe, zrosty.

Lord, oh the Great and Almighty,
Protect our beloved Ukraine,
Bless her with freedom and light
Of your holy rays.

With learning and knowledge
enlightenUs, your children small,
In love pure and everlasting
Let us, oh Lord, grow.

All-Night Vigil

Church Slavonic transliteration and English translation

1 – Priidite, poklonimsia

Amin'. Priidite, poklonimsia
Tsarevi nashemu Bogu.
Priidite, poklonimsia i pripadem
Hristu Tsarevi nashemu Bogu.
Priidite, poklonimsia i pripadem
samomu Hristu Tsarevi i Bogu
nashemu.
Priidite, poklonimsia i pripadem
Yemu.

2 – Blagoslovi, dushe moya

Blagoslovi, dushe moya, Ghospoda,
blagosloven yesi, Ghospodi.
Ghospodi Bozhe moy, vozvelichilsia
yesi zelo.
Blagosloven yesi, Ghospodi.
Vo ispovedaniye i v velelepotu
obleklsia yesi.
Blagosloven yesi, Ghospodi.
Na gorah stanut vodi.
Divna dela Tvoya, Ghospodi.
Posrede gor proydut vodi.
Divna dela tvoya, Ghospodi.

1 – Come, Let Us Worship

Amen. Come, let us worship God,
our King.
Come, let us worship and fall down
before Christ, our King and our God.
Come, let us worship and fall down
before the very Christ, our King and
our God.
Come, let us worship and fall down
before Him.

2 – Bless the Lord, O My soul

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
blessed art Thou, O Lord.
O Lord my God, Thou art very
great. Blessed art Thou, O Lord.
Thou art clothed with honor and
majesty.
Blessed art Thou, O Lord.
The waters stand upon the
mountains.
Marvelous are Thy works, O Lord.
The waters flow between the hills.
Marvelous are Thy works, O Lord.

Fsia premudrostiyu sotvoril yesi.
Slava Ti, Ghospodi, sotvorivshemu
fsia.

3 – Blazhen muzh

Blazhen muzh,
izhe ne ide na sovet nechestivih.
Alliluiya, alliluiya, alliluiya.
Yako vest' Ghospod' put' pravednih
i put' nechestivih pogibnet.
Alliluiya, alliluiya, alliluiya.
Rabotayte Ghospodevi so strahom,
i raduytesia Yemu s trepetom.
Alliluiya, alliluiya, alliluiya.
Blazheni fsi nadeyushchiisia nan'.
Alliluiya, alliluiya, alliluiya.
Voskresni, Ghospodi, spasi mia,
Bozhe moy.
Alliluiya, alliluiya, alliluiya.
Ghospodne yest' spaseniye
i na liudeh Tvoih blagosloveniye
Tvoye.
Alliluiya, alliluiya, alliluiya.
Slava Ottsu, i Sinu, i Sviatomu Duhu,
i nŕne i prisno, i vo veki vekov. Amin'.
Alliluiya, alliluiya, alliluiya.
Slava Tebe, Bozhe.

4 – Svete tihiy

Svete tihiy sviatiya slavi
Bessmertnago,
Ottsa nebesnago, Sviatago,
Blazhennago,
lisuse Hriste.
Prishedshe na zapad solntsa,
videvshe svet vecherniy,
poyem Ottsa, Sina i Sviatago Duha,
Boga.
Dostoin yesi vo fsia vremena
Pet biti glasi prepodobnimi,
Sine Bozhiiy, zhivot dayay,
temzhe mir tia slavit.

In wisdom hast Thou made all
things.

Glory to Thee, O Lord, who hast
created all!

- Psalm 103 [104]: 1–2, 6, 24

3 – Blessed is the Man

Blessed is the man, who walks not
in the counsel of the wicked.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
For the Lord knows the way of the
righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.
Alleluia...
Serve the Lord with fear
and rejoice in Him with trembling.
Alleluia...
Blessed are all who take refuge in
Him. Alleluia...
Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God!
Alleluia...
Salvation belongs to the Lord,
and Thy blessing be upon Thy
people. Alleluia...
Glory to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
both now and ever, and unto ages of
ages. Amen.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to
Thee, O God!

- Psalms 1: 1, 6; 2: 11, 12; 3: 8, 9

4 – Gladsome Light

Gladsome Light of the holy glory of
the Immortal One—
the Heavenly Father, holy and
blessed—
O Jesus Christ!
Now that we have come to the
setting of the sun,
and behold the light of evening,
we praise the Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit—God. Thou art worthy at every
moment to be praised in hymns by
reverent voices. O Son of God, Thou
art the Giver of Life;
therefore all the world glorifies Thee.

5 – Nine otpushchayeshi

Nine otpushchayeshi
raba Tvoyego, Vladiko,
po glagolu Tvoyemu s mirom,
yako videsta ochi moi spaseniye
Tvoye,
yezhe yesi ugotoval
pred litsem vseh liudey,
svet vo otkroveniye yazikov,
i slavu liudey Tvoih Izrailia.

6 – Bogoroditse Devo, raduysia

Bogoroditse Devo, raduysia,
Blagodatnaya Mariye, Ghospod' s
Toboyu.
Blagoslovenna Ti v zhenah,
i blagosloven Plod chreva Tvoyego,
yako Spasa rodila yesi dush nashih.

7 – Shestopsalmiye

Slava v vishnih Bogu,
i na zemli mir,
v chelovetseh blagovoleniye.
Ghospodi, ustne moi otverzeshi,
i usta moya vozvestiat hvalu Tvoyu.

8 – Hvalite imia Ghospodne

Hvalite imia Ghospodne. Alliluiya.
Hvalite, rabi Ghospoda. Alliluiya.
Blagosloven Ghospod' ot Siona,
zhiviy vo Iyerusalime. Alliluiya.
Ispovedaytesia Ghospodevi, yako
blag.
Alliluiya, alliluiya.
Yako v vek milost Yego. Alliluiya.
Ispovedaytesia Bogu nebesnomu.
Alliluiya, alliluiya.
Yako v vek milost Yego. Alliluiya.

5 – Lord, Now Lettest Thou

Lord, now lettest Thou
Thy servant depart
in peace, according to Thy word.
For mine eyes have seen Thy
Salvation,
which Thou hast prepared
before the face of all people:
a light to enlighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of Thy people
Israel.

- Luke 2: 29–32

6 – Rejoice, O Virgin

Rejoice, O Virgin Mother of God,
Mary full of grace, the Lord is with
Thee.
Blessed art Thee among women,
and blessed is the Fruit of Thy
womb,
for Thou hast borne the Savior of
our souls.

7 – The Six Psalms

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace,
good will among men.
O Lord, open Thou my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim Thy
praise.

- Luke 2: 14; Psalm 51: 15

8 – Praise the Name of the Lord

Praise the name of the Lord. Alleluia.
Praise the Lord, O you His servants.
Alleluia.
Blessed be the Lord from Zion, He
who dwells in Jerusalem. Alleluia.
O give thanks unto the Lord, for He
is good, for His mercy endures
forever. Alleluia.
O give thanks unto the God of
Heaven, for His mercy endures
forever. Alleluia.

- Psalm 135: 1, 21; 136: 1, 26

9 – Blagosloven yesi, Ghospodi

Blagosloven yesi, Ghospodi,
nauchi mia opravdaniyem Tvoim.

Angel'skiy sobor udivisia,
zria Tebe v mertvih vmenivshasia,
smertnyuyu zhe, Spase, krepost'
razorivsha,
i s Soboyu Adama vozdvigsha,
i ot Ada fsia svobozhdsha.

Blagosloven yesi, Ghospodi,
nauchi mia opravdaniyem Tvoim.

"Pochto mira s milostivnimi slezami,
o uchenitsi, rastvoriayete?"
Blistayaysia vo grobe Angel,
mironositsam veshchasha:
"Vidite vi grob, i urazumeyte:
Spas bo voskrese ot groba."

Blagosloven yesi, Ghospodi,
nauchi mia opravdaniyem Tvoim.

Zelo rano mironositsi techahu
ko grobu Tvoyemu ridayushchiya,
no predsta k nim Angel, i reche:
"Ridaniya vremena presta, ne plachite,
voskreseniye zhe Apostolom rtsite."

Blagosloven yesi, Ghospodi,
nauchi mia opravdaniyem Tvoim.

Mironositsi zheni s miri prishedshiya
ko grobu Tvoyemu, Spase, ridahu.
Angel zhe k nim reche, glagolia:
"Chto s mertvimi zhivago
pomishliayete?
Yako Bog bo voskrese ot groba!"

Slava Ottsu, i Sinu, i Sviatomu Duhu.

9 – Blessed Art Thou, O Lord

Blessed art Thou, O Lord,
teach me Thy statutes.

The angelic host was filled with awe,
when it saw Thee among the dead.
By destroying the power of death, O
Savior, Thou didst raise Adam,
and save all men from hell!

Blessed art Thou, O Lord,
teach me Thy statutes.

"Why do you women
mingle myrrh with your tears?"
cried the radiant angel in the tomb
to the myrrhbearers.
Behold the tomb and understand!
The Savior is risen from the dead!"

Blessed art Thou, O Lord,
teach me Thy statutes.

Very early in the morning
the myrrhbearers ran with sorrow to
Thy tomb, but an Angel came to
them and said: "The time for sorrow
has come to an end!
Do not weep, but announce the
resurrection to the apostles!"

Blessed art Thou, O Lord,
teach me Thy statutes.

The myrrhbearers were sorrowful
as they neared Thy tomb,
but the Angel said to them:
"Why do you number the living
among the dead? Since He is God,
He is risen from the tomb!"

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

Poklonimsia Ottsu, i Yego Sinovi, i
Sviatomu Duhu,
Sviatey Troitse vo yedinom
sushchestve
s Serafimi zovushche:
"Sviat, sviat, sviat, yesi Ghospodi!"
I nine, i prisno, i vo veki vekov. Amin'.

Zhiznodavtsa rozhdshi,
greha, Devo, Adama izbavila yesi.
Radost' zhe Yeve v pechali mesto
podala yesi;
padshiya zhe ot zhizni, k sey napravi,
iz Tebe voplotivysia Bog i Chelovek.

Alliluiya, alliluiya, alliluiya, slava Tebe,
Bozhe!

10 – Voskreseniye Hristovo videvshe

Voskreseniye Hristovo videvshe,
poklonimsia Sviatomu Ghospodu
Iisusu, yedinomu Bezgreshnomu.
Krestu Tvoyemu pokloniyemsia,
Hriste, i sviatoye voskreseniye Tvoye
poyem i slavim:
Ti bo yesi Bog nash, razve Tebe
inogo ne znayem,
imia Tvoye imenuyem.
Priidite fsi vernii,
poklonimsia sviatomu Hristovu
voskreseniyu: se bo priide krestom
radost fsemu miru,
fsegda blagosloviashche Ghospoda,
poyem voskreseniye Yego:
raspiatiye bo preterpev,
smertiyu smert' razrushii.

11 – Velichit dusha moya Ghospoda

Velichit dusha moya Ghospoda,
i vozradovasia duh moy o Boze
Spase moyem.

We worship the Father, and His Son,
and the Holy Spirit:
the Holy Trinity, one in essence!
We cry with the Seraphim:
"Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Lord!"
Both now and ever, and unto ages of
ages. Amen.

Since Thou didst give birth to the
Giver of Life, O Virgin,
Thou didst deliver Adam from his
sin! Thou gavest joy to Eve instead
of sadness! The God-man who was
born of Thee has restored to life
those who had fallen from it!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Glory to
Thee, O God!

10 – Having Beheld the Resurrection

Having beheld the resurrection of
Christ, let us worship the holy Lord
Jesus, the only Sinless One.
We venerate Thy Cross, O Christ,
and we hymn and glorify Thy holy
resurrection, for Thou art our God,
and we know no other than Thee;
we call on Thy name.
Come, all you faithful,
let us venerate Christ's holy
resurrection.
For, behold, through the cross
joy has come into all the world.
Ever blessing the Lord,
let us praise His resurrection,
for by enduring the cross for us, He
has destroyed death by death.

11 – My Soul Magnifies the Lord

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my
spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Refrain:

Chestneyshuyu Heruvim
i slavenyshuyu bez sravneniya
Serafim, bez istleniya Boga Slova
rozhdshuyu, sushchuyu Bogoroditsu
Tia velichayem.

Yako prizre na smireniye rabi
Svoyeya, se bo otnine ublazhat mia
fsi rodi.

Refrain.

Yako sotvori mne velichiye Sil'niy,
i sviato imia Yego,
i milost' Yego v rodi rodov
boyashchimsia Yego....

Refrain.

Nizlozhi sil'niya so prestol,
i voznese smirenniya,
alchushchiya ispolni blag,
i bogatiashchiyasia otpusti tshchi.

Refrain.

Vospriyat Izrailia, otroka Svoyego,
pomianuti milosti,
yakozhe glagola ko ottsem nashim,
Avraamu i semeni yego dazhe do
veka.

Refrain

12 – Slavosloviye velikoye

Slava v vishnih Bogu, i na zemli mir,
v chelovetseh blagovoleniye.

Hvalim Tia, blagoslovim Tia,
klaniayem Ti sia, slavoslovim Tia,
blagodarim Tia, velikiya radi slavi
Tvoyeya.

Ghospodi, Tsariu nebesniy,
Bozhe Otche Fsederzhiteliu.

Refrain:

More honorable than the Cherubim
and more glorious beyond compare
than the Seraphim, without
corruption Thou gavest birth to God
the Word, true Theotokos, we
magnify Thee.

For He has regarded the low estate
of His handmaiden.

For behold, henceforth all
generations will call me blessed.

Refrain.

For He who is mighty has done
great things for me, and holy is His
name, and His mercy is on those
who fear Him from generation to
generation....

Refrain.

He has put down the mighty from
their thrones, and has exalted those
of low degree; He has filled the
hungry with good things, and the
rich He has sent empty away.

Refrain.

He has helped His servant Israel,
in remembrance of His mercy,
as He spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his posterity
forever.

Refrain

- Luke 1:46–55

12 – The Great Doxology

Glory to God in the highest, and on
earth peace, Good will toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee,
we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,
we give thanks to Thee for Thy great
glory.

O Lord, Heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.

Ghospodi, Sine yedinorodniy,
lisuse Hriste, i Sviatiy Dushe.
Ghospodi Bozhe, Agnche Bozhiy,
Sine Otech', vzemliay greh mira,
pomiluy nas; vzemliay grehi mira,
priimi molitvu nashu.
Sediay odesnuyu Ottsa,
pomiluy nas. Yako Ti yesi yedin
sviat, Ti yesi yedin Ghospod', lisus
Hristos, v slavu Boga Ottsa. Amin'.
Na fsiak den' blagoslovliu Tia
i vos'hvaliu Imia Tvoye vo vek i v vek
veka.

Spodobi, Ghospodi, v den' sey
bez greha sohranitisia nam.
Blagosloven yesi, Ghospodi, Bozhe
otets nashih, i hval'no i proslavleno
Imia Tvoye vo vek. Amin'.
Budi, Ghospodi, milost' Tvoya na
nas, yakozhe upovahom na Tia.
Blagosloven yesi, Ghospodi,
nauchi mia opravdaniyem Tvoim.
Ghospodi, pribezhishche bil yesi
nam v rod i rod.

Az reh: Ghospodi, pomiluy mia,
istseli dushu moyu, yako sogreshih
Tebe.

Ghospodi, k Tebe pribegoh,
nauchi mia tvoriti voliu Tvoyu, yako
Ti yesi Bog moy,
yako u Tebe istochnik zhivota;
vo svete Tvoym uzrim svet.
Probavi milost' Tvoyu vedushchim
Tia.

Sviatiy Bozhe, Sviatiy Krepkij,
Sviatiy Bessmertniy, pomiluy nas.

Slava Ottsu, i Sinu, i Sviatomu Duhu,
i nine i prisno, i vo vek i vekov. Amin.
Sviatiy Bessmertniy, pomiluy nas.

Sviatiy Bozhe, Sviatiy Krepkij,
Sviatiy Bessmertniy, pomiluy nas.

O Lord, the only begotten Son,
Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the
Father, who takest away the sin of
the world have mercy on us.
Thou who takest away the sin of the
world, receive our prayer.
Thou who sittest at the right hand of
the Father, have mercy on us.
For Thou alone art holy,
Thou alone art the Lord, Jesus
Christ, to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Every day I will bless Thee
and praise Thy name forever and
ever. Vouchsafe, O Lord,
to keep us this day without sin.
Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our
fathers, and praised and glorified is
Thy name forever. Amen.
Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us,
as we have set our hope on Thee.
Blessed art Thou, O Lord,
teach me Thy statutes.
Lord, Thou has been our refuge
from generation to generation. I said:
Lord, have mercy on me,
heal my soul, for I have sinned
against Thee. Lord, I flee to Thee,
teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art
my God; for with Thee is the
fountain of life, and in Thy light we
shall see light. Continue Thy mercy
on those who know Thee.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy
Immortal, have mercy on us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, both now and
ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy
Immortal, have mercy on us.

13 – Tropar “Dnes’ spaseniye”

Dnes’ spaseniye miru bist,
poyem Voskresshemu iz groba
i Nachal’niku zhizni nasheya;
razrushiv bo smertiuyu smert’,
pobedu dade nam i veliyu milost’.

14 – Tropar “Voskres iz groba”

VVoskres iz groba i uzi rasterzal yesi
Ada, razrushil yesi osuzhdeniye
smerti, Ghospodi, fsia ot setey vraga
izbaviviy, yaviviy zhe Sebe
Apostolom Tvoim, poslal yesi ya na
propoved’, i temi mir Tvoy podal yesi,
Yedine Mnogomilostive.

15 – Vzbrannoy voyevode

Vzbrannoy voyevode pobeditel’naya,
yako izbavl’shesia ot zlih,
blagodarstvennaya vospisuyem Ti
rabi Tvoi, Bogoroditse:
no yako imushchaya derzhavu
nepobedimuyu, ot fsiakih nas bed
svobodi, da zovem Ti:
“Raduysia, Nevesto nenevestnaya!”

13 – The Troparion “Today Salvation”

Today salvation has come to the
world. Let us sing to Him who rose
from the dead, the Author of our life.
Having destroyed death by death,
He has given us the victory and
great mercy.

14 – The Troparion “Thou Didst Rise”

Thou didst rise from the tomb
and burst the bonds of Hades.
Thou didst destroy the
condemnation of death, O Lord,
releasing all from the snares of the
enemy. Thou didst show Thyself to
Thine Apostles, and didst send them
forth to proclaim Thee; and through
them didst grant Thy peace to the
world, O Thou Who art plenteous in
mercy!

15 – To Thee, the Victorious Leader

To Thee, the victorious Leader of
triumphant hosts, we Thy servants,
delivered from evil, offer hymns of
thanksgiving, O Theotokos!
Since Thou dost possess invincible
might, set us free from all
calamities, so that we may cry to
Thee: “Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!”

Phonetic text and translations courtesy of
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Prayer for Ukraine

Molymos', Bozhe yedynyi,
Nam Ukrainu khrany,
Vsi svoi lasky y shchedroty,
Ty na liud nash zverny.

Dai yomu voliu, dai yomu doliu,
Dai dobroho svitu, shchastia,
Dai, Bozhe, narodu
I mnohaia, mnohaia lita.

We pray, oh Lord Almighty,
Protect our beloved Ukraine,
Grant our people and country
All your kindness and grace.

Bless us with freedom, bless us with
wisdom,
Guide into kind world,
Bless us, oh Lord, with good fortune
For ever and evermore.

Nathaniel Dett Chorale

D. Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, Artistic Director and Conductor



D. Brainerd Blyden-Taylor is the Founder, Artistic Director and Conductor of The Nathaniel Dett Chorale, Canada's first professional chamber choir dedicated to the creation, preservation and performance of Afrocentric choral music of all genres.

Mr. Blyden-Taylor has worked extensively as an educator at the university, public school and community levels; and was awarded the degree Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) from York University, Toronto for his service to education.

He is in demand as a guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator and lecturer, both nationally and internationally. He has been an active and dedicated church musician for more than 50 years and serves currently as Director of Music at All Saints Kingsway Anglican Church, Toronto.

The Chorale

The multi-faceted vocalists of The Nathaniel Dett Chorale perform all styles and genres of music as appropriate to the traditions of Africa and its Diasporas. The Chorale's mission is to build bridges of understanding, appreciation, and acceptance between communities of people through the medium of Afrocentric choral music.

Founder D. Brainerd Blyden-Taylor named The Nathaniel Dett Chorale after internationally-renowned African Canadian composer R. Nathaniel Dett (1882-1943) to draw attention to Dett's legacy, to the breadth of Afrocentric choral music, and to be a professional choral ensemble where persons of African heritage can be well represented.

Currently in its 23rd Season, The Nathaniel Dett Chorale was recently named Artist in Residence at The Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on Africa and its Diasporas at York University.

Nathaniel Dett Chorale vocalists

Soprano

Anaïs Kelsey-Verdecchia
Ineza Mugisha
Justine Owen
Alison Ryan
Karen Weigold

Alto

Margaret Bárdos
Jenna Cowans
Alexandra Garrison
Anika Venkatesh
Érika Wood

Tenor

Jacob Abrahamse
Ryan Downey
Nicholas Gough
Jamie Hillman
Paul Williamson

Bass

Andrew Adridge
Wade Bray
Jeremy Nasmith
Christopher Petersen
Dérrell Woods

Toronto Mendelssohn Choir



Jean-Sébastien Vallée, Artistic Director

Named as TMC's Artistic Director in May 2021 following an international search, Maestro Dr. Jean-Sébastien Vallée is an internationally recognized conductor, scholar, and pedagogue. In addition to his artistic leadership of the TMC, he is also Associate Professor of Music, Director of Choral Studies, and

Coordinator of the Ensembles & Conducting Area at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University. Ensembles under his direction have toured throughout Europe and North America and Maestro Vallée's work has been broadcast internationally and can be heard on several recordings.



Simon Rivard, Associate Conductor

Choral and orchestral conductor Simon Rivard was named in July 2020 as Associate Conductor of the TMC. Simon has been serving as RBC Resident Conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Conductor of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra since 2018. He led the TMC through the 2020/21

pandemic season, conducting and producing four online concert programs. During the 21/22 season, Simon conducts the TMC and TSYO in Festival of Carols, and the TMC and Nathaniel Dett Chorale in Sacred Music for a Sacred Space.



Irene Gregorio, Collaborative Pianist

Pianist and chamber musician, Dr. Irene Gregorio recently returned home to Canada following a 15-year career in California where she was on the faculty of the California State University and served as pianist for the Los Angeles Children's Chorus, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, and the University of Southern

California Chamber Singers. In Guelph, she now serves as the Director of Music Ministry at Dublin St. United Church, and Sessional Instructor of Piano at the University of Guelph.

The Choir

The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, Canada's world-renowned large vocal ensemble, performs choral music drawn from six centuries, including a cappella motets, grand symphonic masterworks, world premières of new compositions, and rarely heard works. In addition to its own concert season, the TMC also appears regularly with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and makes other guest appearances.

The TMC presented its first concert on January 15, 1895, as part of Massey Hall's inaugural season, and has been a leader in choral music in Canada ever since. In May 2021 the Choir named Jean-Sébastien Vallée as Artistic Director, only the ninth conductor in its 127-year history.

The choristers of the TMC include professional singers, auditioned volunteers and choral apprentices. As part of its mission to champion the choral music experience, the Choir webcasts select concerts, supports emerging conductors and composers, and hosts a series of choral workshops for amateur singers.

TMC Choristers

Soprano

- Tia Andriani
- Ann-Marie Barrett-Tandy
- Victoria Betts
- Leslie Bradshaw
- Marlo Burks
- Amy Chen
- Laureen Choi
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- Arushi Das
- Kaveri Gandhi
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- MerryAnne Stuart *
- Joanne Tang
- Jennifer Ujimoto
- Jennie Worden
- Sophya Yumakulov

Alto

- Jane Agosta
- Julia Barber *
- Rebecca Claborn *
- Nina Coutinho
- Kristin Crawford
- Avis Devine
- Adrienne Eastwood
- Kirsten Fielding *
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Seymour Stern
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Isaiah Yankech
David Yung *
Bruce Yungblut

Guest Oktavists

Elias Dubelsten
Alexis V. Lukianov

* Singer in the TMC Professional Core

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The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir gratefully acknowledges the support of our government partners, corporate and foundation sponsors, and individual donors who, through their financial support, make it possible for the TMC to present outstanding high-quality performances, community engagement programs, and education opportunities.

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NOVEMBER 2, 2021

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Jonelle Sills, soprano
Brett Polegato, baritone

The Chariot Jubilee

Nathaniel Dett

Ein deutsches Requiem

Johannes Brahms

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DECEMBER 1, 2021

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APRIL 15, 2022

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MAY 28, 2022

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