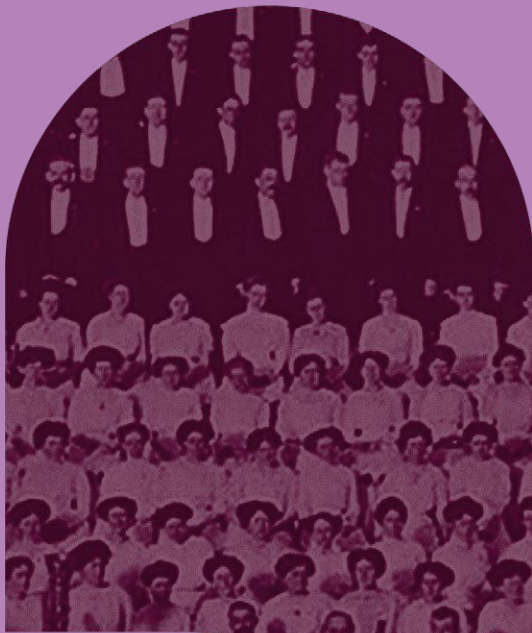


# Toronto Mendelssohn Choir

Jean-Sébastien Vallée  
Artistic Director



# Annual Report

22  
23





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## Message from the Artistic Director Jean-Sébastien Vallée

Reflecting on the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir's 2022/23 season, we celebrate a transformative chapter shaped by resilience and creativity. This period marked a pivotal moment, emerging from the pandemic's grasp and responding to the global call to reshape classical music.

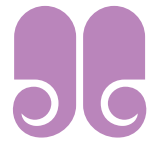
In 2022/23, our bold three-year artistic plan unfolded, positioning the TMChoir as a leading choral organisation distinguished for both artistic excellence and intentional community engagement activities, led by our Associate Conductor and Director of Community Engagement for 2022/23, Dr. Jamie Hillman. Furthermore, we inaugurated the TMChoir's Composer-in-Residence program, warmly welcoming Dr. Shireen Abu-Khader as our first-ever Composer-in-Residence.

Our contribution to the expansion and diversification of the choral field was palpable through new commissions, masterful performances, innovative programming, and community engagements. The season encompassed 200 hours of rehearsals and 17 performances, featuring diverse concert programs and collaborations with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the University of Toronto's MacMillan Singers. A highlight was the recording of TMChoir's new album, showcasing Canadian Choral Music from the past 130 years, set for release in October 2024 under the label ATMA Classique.

As we share these highlights, my profound gratitude extends to you for being an integral part of this transformative journey. The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir has evolved into a beacon in the musical landscape, and I look forward to continuing this remarkable journey.





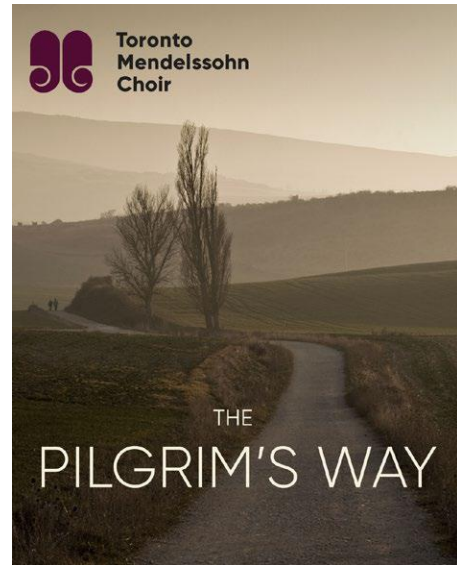


The Passion of Many Voices

# 22/23 Concert Season

22/23 marked a milestone for TMChoir with self-produced performances at Roy Thomson Hall and Koerner Hall, the introduction of our inaugural Composer-in-Residence, and the establishment of our professional 24-voice ensemble, the TMSingers. With new collaborative partnerships and creative connections, TMChoir's growth as a choral organisation was evident in every detail of our 22/23 programming.

The 22/23 season's repertoire spoke to a wide audience and shared the perspectives of our local communities. Notable moments included original commissions by Composer-in-Residence Dr. Shireen Abu-Khader, a meaningful partnership with Unity Kitchen, and compelling works by Joby Talbot, J.S. Bach, David Lang, and, of course, Felix Mendelssohn.



## The Pilgrim's Way

October 1, 2022  
Trinity-St. Paul's United Church

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor  
Toronto Mendelssohn Singers  
Raneem Barakat, mezzo-soprano

Audience Attendance: 320

"This remarkable musical and personal journey of this entire concert will, I think, resonate long in the minds of artists and audience alike."  
- LARGE STAGE LIVE



## Mendelssohn's Elijah

November 2, 2022  
Roy Thomson Hall

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor  
Russell Braun, bass-baritone

Audience Attendance: 1,957

"It was indeed a grand night of music-making...  
To my ears, TMChoir proved once again last evening that it's Canada's finest."  
- MY SCENA



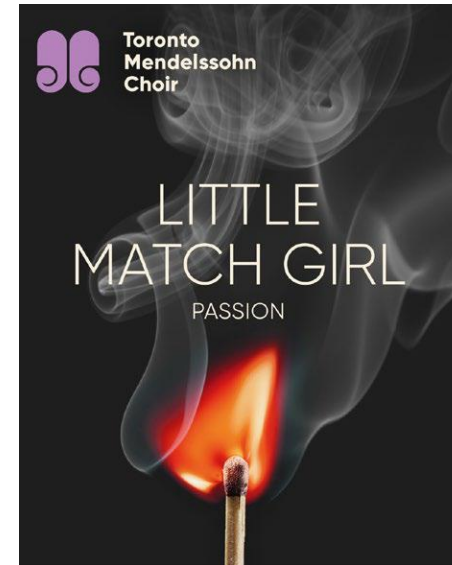
## Festival of Carols

December 6 & 7, 2022  
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church  
and Streamed on Vimeo

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor  
Toronto Mendelssohn Choir  
Toronto Mendelssohn Singers  
Isabelle Demers, organist

Audience Attendance: 1,361  
On-demand video views: 987

"When these carols are sung by a choral group as fine as the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, it's a decidedly pleasurable experience, one that many Canadians, Christian or otherwise, enjoy."  
- LUDWIG VAN



## Little Match Girl Passion

March 18, 2023  
Church of the Holy Trinity

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor  
Toronto Mendelssohn Singers

Audience Attendance: 346

"Toronto Mendelssohn Singers gave a very beautiful, carefully constructed and thought provoking concert."  
- OPERA RAMBLINGS



## Bach's Mass in B Minor

March 28, 2023  
Koerner Hall

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor  
Toronto Mendelssohn Choir  
Baroque Orchestra

Audience Attendance: 911

"The Choir went on from strength to strength throughout the performance...  
This was, in every way, the finest B Minor Mass I have ever heard in a live performance."  
- LARGE STAGE LIVE

87 Years of Collaboration

# TSO Concerts



The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir has performed and collaborated with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra since 1935. We take great pride in our enduring partnership with the TSO, dedicating ourselves to enriching Toronto through these collaborations and delivering world-class choral and orchestral masterworks.



## Handel's Messiah

December 17-21, 2022  
Roy Thomson Hall

Gustavo Gimeno, conductor  
Lauren Fagan, soprano  
Stephanie Wake-Edwards, mezzo-soprano  
Michael Colvin, tenor  
Elliot Madore, baritone  
Toronto Symphony Orchestra  
Toronto Mendelssohn Choir  
Jean-Sébastien Vallée, chorusmaster



## Mozart's Requiem

January 11-15, 2023  
Roy Thomson Hall

Michael Francis, conductor  
Jane Archibald, soprano  
Susan Platts, mezzo-soprano  
Isaiah Bell, tenor  
Kevin Deas, baritone  
Toronto Symphony Orchestra  
Toronto Mendelssohn Choir  
Toronto Mendelssohn Singers  
Jean-Sébastien Vallée, chorusmaster

### Fun Facts

The TSO's first performance of *Messiah* with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir dates back to the 1935/36 season and took place at the University of Toronto's Convocation Hall.

Audiences enjoyed *Messiah* singalongs for a number of years at Massey Hall, and would be seated in their respective vocal sections: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. *(-Courtesy TSO)*

### In the Media

" I don't know what share of the excellence comes back to the input of the new Artistic Director of the TMChoir, Jean-Sébastien Vallée, but they're sounding better than I've ever heard them."

- BARCZABLOG

Creating New Choral Experiences

# Community & Education

We are "beyond a choir" — our dedication to new choral experiences also extends to creating meaningful and impactful educational and community programs, and to forging new relationships and partnerships with friends and neighbours in the Canadian choral landscape.

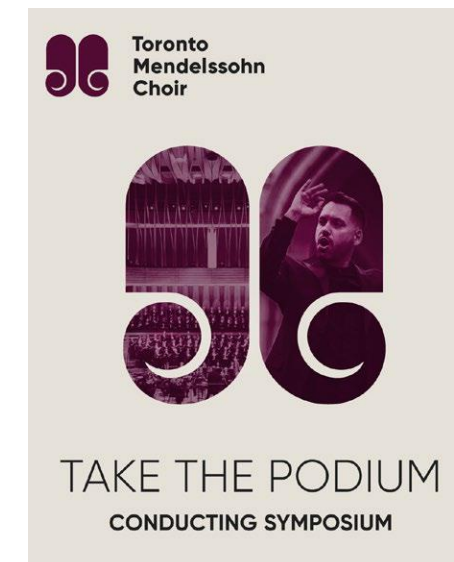


## Exchange Community Choral Festival

February 4, 2023  
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

Jamie Hillman, conductor  
Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, including the TMSingers  
Agincourt Collegiate Institute – Amanda Tulk-O'Reilly, director  
O'Neill Collegiate and Vocational Institute – Erin Collins, director  
Mayfield Secondary School – Marie Adridge and  
Melissa Locke, directors

Audience Attendance: 225



## Take the Podium Conducting Symposium

May 5, 2023  
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor  
6 Participating Symposium Conductors  
Toronto Mendelssohn Choir  
Toronto Mendelssohn Singers

Audience Attendance: 272  
On-demand video views: 955

" Hearing the TMChoir sing my piece *There Will Come Soft Rains* was a dream come true. The choir delivered a stunning premiere of the work, engaging wholeheartedly with both the musical and philosophical elements of the work, and lifting the music passionately off of the page. I'm so thankful to have had the opportunity to work with such a talented group of singers. Special thanks to JS and the conducting symposium participants for their efforts and dedication in preparing and presenting the piece."

- KAI LEUNG (WINNER, 2022 CHORAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION)





The TMSingers perform *The Pilgrim's Way* Jeanne Lamon Hall, Trinity-St.Paul's Centre

# At a Glance TMChoir 22/23



Clockwise: Jamie Hillman leads rehearsal backstage at the Exchange Community Choral Festival; emerging conductor Raoul Carlo Angangco at the Take the Podium free concert; the audience sings with the full TMChoir at the Festival of Carols



Clockwise: Singers from community high school choirs come together for our 2023 Exchange Community Choral Festival; Shireen Abu-Khader, our 22/23 Composer-in-Residence leads a workshop; the 6 emerging conductors selected for our Take the Podium Conducting Symposium.





# Other Projects



## “Remember”

### A Recording Project

To be released in 2024

In anticipation of TMChoir’s upcoming 130th anniversary, an album showcasing 130 years of Canadian choral music was recorded in June 2023 at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church. Featuring both the TMChoir and the TMSingers, the album presents a blend of old and new repertoire, illustrating the ensemble’s rich history across various musical styles and genres.

Scheduled for release under the ATMA Classique label in October 2024, the album promises to be a compelling testament to TMChoir’s enduring legacy and its contribution to the Canadian choral tradition.

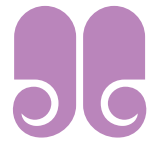


## Bylaws Project

In 2023, Draft Articles of Amendment and General Operating By-law No. 3 were prepared by the Board of Directors, supported by external counsel, Carters Professional Corporation. The purpose of these documents was to transition the TMChoir under the new ONCA and keep the organisation compliant. The transition process involved the Directors and members adopting articles of amendment and a new ONCA-compliant by-law. At the Special Meeting in August 2023, members were invited to provide their feedback and questions on these draft

documents. Upon members’ review of the draft documents in their entirety, the resolution on the bylaws passed with 98% approval. The articles of amendment were then filed with the Ontario Government, which issued a certificate of amendment. The articles of amendment have brought the TMChoir’s letters patent and supplementary letters patent into compliance with the ONCA, making the TMChoir one of the few not-for-profit organisations to do so ahead of the deadline – an achievement we should be very proud of.

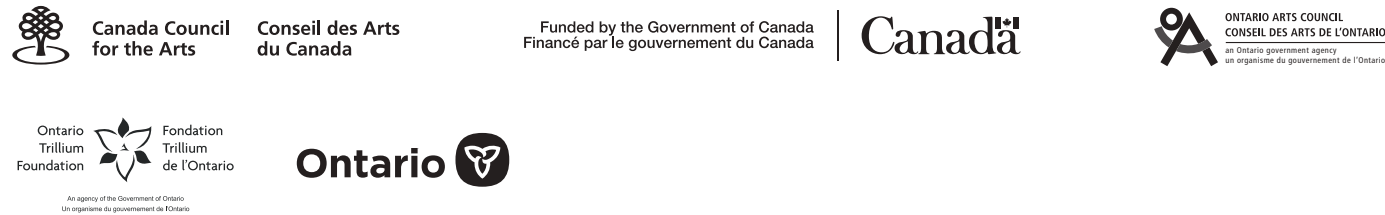




## Our Community of Support

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 TMChoir to present outstanding high-quality performances, community engagement programs, and education opportunities. This list reflects donations from September 2021 to the end of the 22/23 season in May 2023.

### Government Supporters



### Corporate & Private Foundation Partners

BMO Financial Group	CIBC Children's Foundation	McLean Foundation
Covience, Inc	Edwards Charitable Foundation	Ontario Trillium Foundation
KPMG LLP	Hal Jackman Foundation	Tippet Foundation
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### Season Sponsors



### Legacy Circle

We are grateful to the following individuals who have chosen to support the future of choral music with a legacy gift to the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir.

Anonymous (9)	Anita Rundans-Gaide & Ivars Gaide	Janice Schuyler-Ketchen	Amy Rossiter <sup>†</sup>
Irene Bailey	William Galloway	Eleanor Kunyca	Sue Sherman & Don McCuaig
Charles & Lenora Butler	Douglas Gardner <sup>†</sup>	Thomas C. Logan <sup>†</sup>	Ross Robert Stretton
Lloyd Chiotti	John Grebby	Sue Newman & Wilf Trivett	Susan Q Wilson
Elizabeth & Tony Churchill	John Grebby	Philip Penney <sup>†</sup>	
Debbie Fleming	Cynthia Hawkins	Isabel Pierce <sup>†</sup>	
	Clement Kam		<sup>†</sup> deceased

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Susan Worthington  
Virginia Wright

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Neil Aronoff, in memory of my mom, Pearl Elizabeth Asselstine  
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Cynthia Nidd  
Angelina Ng  
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Cynthia Nidd

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& Don Woodrow  
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Diane Stafford  
Regine Suehring  
Carey Suleiman,  
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Denny Young  
Kenneth Swain,  
in honour of  
Marcia Myers  
Liz Szonyi  
Andrew Szonyi  
Barbara Track,  
in honour of  
Denny Young  
Hitishi & Mary Ujimoto,  
in honour of  
Jennifer Ujimoto  
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Baldwin Verstraete  
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Charles Caty  
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of Steven Cox  
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Cindy Crawford  
Kristin Crawford  
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Francis Pegamagabow  
Lisa Cruikshanks  
Dianne Curtis  
Lois Daniels  
Pat Davidson,  
in honour of Gail &  
Marg Rappolt  
Kerry Davis  
Joanne Dear  
Natalie Delgobbo  
Mary DesJardine  
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in honour of  
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in honour of  
Anne Longmore  
Janet Duval,  
in honour of Christine Kerr  
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Mr. Colin Eatock

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in memory of Dahne  
Michele Gamblin &  
Dick Gamblin  
Debbie Gill  
Lynn Glazer  
Paula Goldman  
Timothy &  
Caroline Gordon  
Phyllis Gordon  
Joy Gordon  
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Nancy Kleer  
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Larry Lewis,  
in memory of  
Brother OZ  
Mary Lilley  
Sandra Lincoln  
Valerie Ling  
Gloria Lipski  
Lewis & Susan Liu  
Carole Lockie  
Oliver &  
Gillian Long  
Myroslawa Lukiwsky  
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Rensia Anna Melles  
Linda Miller  
MaryAnne Miller  
Lee Mondshein,  
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Mondshein  
Richard Morrison  
Heather Mosher-Saunders,  
in memory of Mary  
Saunders & Gwen Mosher  
Erin Moure  
Bruce & Joanne Moyle

Elizabeth Nyburg,  
in honour of  
Julia Barber  
Kenna Owoh  
Youngsin Park  
Allan Parker  
Mary Anne Parkinson  
Janet Parsons  
Jean Marc Pasche  
Carol Pask, in memory of  
Martin & Nina Pask  
Susan Penny  
Lisette Pereira,  
in honour of Pamela  
Pereira  
Ana Pereira  
Ranee Perera  
David Perlman  
Muriel Petersen  
Allan Petrie  
David Phipps  
Roger Pinney  
Adrienne Pollak  
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Christopher Ross  
Susan Rothwell

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(\$10–\$99)**

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Anonymous,  
in memory of Gail &  
Bill Dawson

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Brenda Touzot  
Vincenza Travale  
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Emilia Tung  
Clark Unger  
Tammy van den Brink  
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Albert & Lyn Vrensen  
Margaret Walton  
Peter Warth  
Margaret Weaver, in memory of  
Janet Plock  
Jo-Anne Weinstein  
Kathryn Weise  
Richard & Sally Wellen  
Peter Wells  
Allan & Mavis Whicker  
Michele Whitcombe  
Cathy & Mark Whitcombe  
Nancy White  
John Whitehead  
Barbara Whitney  
Margarete Wiebe  
Jurie Wijayanayaka  
Barbara Wilson  
Morris Wolfe  
Mary Woodrow

Mary-Louise Work  
Kim Worobec, in memory of  
Anne Worobec  
Heather Wright  
Ashley Wu  
Corinne Wyatt  
Christine Wylie & Brian Foster  
Marina Yoshida  
Lorna Young  
Francis Young  
Robert Youtz  
Mitzi & Mark Zohar

## The Choristers of 22/23

### Soprano

Catherine Alberti  
Tia Andriani  
Leslie Bradshaw  
Amy Chen  
Laureen Choi  
Arushi Das  
Emily Dotzlaw  
Janet Eide  
Jane Fingler \*  
Leslie Finlay  
Marina Galeano  
Rebecca Genge \*  
Christine Kerr  
Claire Luc  
Sachiko Marshall  
Camila Mussa  
Emily Parker \*  
Olivia Pryce-Digby  
Alison Price  
Roxana Samson  
Jaclyn Siou  
Sinéad White \*  
Sophya Yumakulov  
Ann-Marie Barrett-Tandy  
Jocelyn Belfer  
Lesley Emma Bouza \*  
Louise Boyden  
Marlo Burks  
Hannah Carty  
Joanne Chapin \*  
Kim Finkelstein  
Louise Friesen  
Kaveri Gandhi  
Pat Irwin  
Alysha Ladha  
Jisue Lee  
Marlene Lynds  
Teresa Mahon \*  
Lindsay McIntyre \*  
Rebecca McKay \*  
Cathy Minnaar  
Ariane Prescott  
Mary Ridgley  
Heather Rowe  
Alessia Signorella  
Chong Tan  
Joanne Tang  
Jennie Worden

### Alto

Julia Barber \*  
Frances Chan  
Elaine Choi  
Nina Coutinho  
Adrienne Eastwood  
Kirsten Fielding \*  
Ruxandra Filip  
Gillian Grant  
Ilone Harrison  
Simon Honeyman \*  
Marilyn Isaac Stewart  
Heather McGrath  
Jennifer McGraw  
Annie Odom  
Parnian Parvin  
Pamela Psarianos  
Eva Stone-Barney \*  
Jan Szot  
Jennifer Ujimoto  
Emma Willemsma  
Tarquin Wongkee  
Virginia Wright  
Ashley Wu  
Jane Agosta  
Marlo Alcock  
Renee Ardiente  
Rebecca Claborn \*  
Kristin Crawford  
Avis Devine  
Manda Fischer  
Sue Kim  
Alison Massam  
Hilary McCrimmon  
Ryan McDonald \*  
Bethany Jo Mikelait  
Valerie Moscato  
Matthew Muggeridge \*  
Alison Roy \*  
Yara Rubb  
Kiley Venables  
Patti Vipond  
Susan Worthington  
Jessica Wright \*  
Mitzi Zohar

### Tenor

Mitch Aldrich \*  
Rafael Avila  
Marcel d'Entremont \*  
Omar Flores  
Alejandro Guerrero  
Jamie Hillman \*  
Clement Kam  
Francis Lam  
Michaelangelo Masangkay  
Daniel Meeks  
Kevin Myers \*  
Nicholas Nicolaidis \*  
Christopher Wenman  
Jacob Abrahamse \*  
Samuel Broverman  
Thomas Burton \*  
Karel Cantelar Ramos  
Chris Church  
Michael Clipperton  
Peter DeRoche  
John Gladwell  
Nicholas Gough \*  
Nathan Gritter  
Valdis Jevtejevs \*  
Eric Lee  
Walter Mahabir \*  
Timothy McPhail  
Neil Payne

### Bass

Jeffrey Baker  
Dan Bevan-Baker \*  
Hernan Botero  
Tony Churchill  
Scott Crocker  
Steven Foster  
Paul Genyk-Berezowsky \*  
Richard Hrytzak \*  
Ron Jewell  
John Lemke  
Kai Leung \*  
Matt Lozinski  
Alan Macdonald \*  
Colin Mackey \*  
Joseph McGowan  
Magnus Mee  
David Peer  
Tillmann Peter  
Seymour Stern  
Paul Winkelmanns \*  
Eric Yang  
David Yung  
Bruce Yungblut  
Neil Aronoff \*  
Matthew Conte  
Kieran Kane \*  
Paul Oros \*  
David Powell  
Milovan Prelevic  
Jordan Scholl \*  
Victor Tung  
Sean van Wyk  
Jonah Wall  
Isaiah Yankech  
Michael York \*

\* TMSingers

## Our People in 22/23

### Artistic Staff

**Jean-Sébastien Vallée**  
Artistic Director  
**Jamie Hillman**  
Director of Community Engagement & Associate Conductor  
**Shireen Abu-Khader**  
Composer-in-Residence  
**Irene Gregorio**  
Collaborative Pianist & Musical Assistant  
**Simon Rivard**  
Artistic Collaborator  
**Rena Roussin**  
Musicologist in Residence

### Administration

**Anna Kajtár**  
Executive Director  
**Amy Saffer**  
General Manager  
**Kathleen Stevenson**  
Director of Artistic Operations  
**Sare Thorpe**  
Administrative Assistant  
**GFN Productions**  
Concert Promotion & Social Media  
**Young Associates**  
Financial Services  
**Laura Wills**  
Branding & Design

### Board of Directors

**David Raju**  
Chair  
**Teri Dennis-Davies**  
Vice-Chair  
**Christie Bates**  
**Mary Chang**  
**Dick Freeborough**  
**Debe Ibitoye**  
**Pat M. Irwin**  
**Sachiko Marshall**  
**Amy Tibble**  
**Jennifer Ujimoto**  
**Susan Worthington**  
**Denny Young**





Toronto  
Mendelssohn  
Choir

22  
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