

Durufié's Requiem (Community Concert)

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor

Jonathan Oldengarm, organ

Toronto Mendelssohn Choir

PROGRAM

Richte mich, Gott, op. 78 no. 2

Felix Mendelssohn

One Thing at a Time

Aaron Manswell

Leslie Higgins, soprano

World Premiere & TMChoir Commission

Little Welcome Son

Crescenzo DiCecco

Choral Composition Competition Winner

& World Premiere

Nothing Gold Can Stay

Stephanie Martin

Requiem, op.9

Maurice Durufié

I. Introit

II. Kyrie

III. Domine Jesu Christe (*David Yung, baritone*)

IV. Sanctus

V. Pie Jesu (*Rebecca Claborn, mezzo-soprano*)

VI. Agnus Dei

VII. Lux aeterna

VIII. Libera me (*David Yung, baritone*)

IX. In Paradisum

Runtime: 75 minutes with no intermission

The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir

World-renowned Toronto Mendelssohn Choir is proud to be one of Canada's oldest, largest, and most celebrated choral organizations. The Choir 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, commissioning works by Canadian composers, and presenting world and Canadian premieres. It has also made frequent appearances in the United States and has performed at such European festivals as the Edinburgh Festival, the Lucerne International Festival, the Festival Estival in Paris, the Flanders Festival and the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts (the Proms) at London's Royal Albert Hall. The Choir also regularly performs and records with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. In May 2021, Jean-Sébastien Vallée was named as Artistic Director, only the eighth conductor in TMChoir's 130-year history.

Through its performances, educational programs, and community engagement, TMChoir aspires to introduce its audiences to choral masterworks from the past and present — making both renowned and lesser-known pieces available, accessible, and inspirational to all.

TMChoir includes a core of professional singers and more than 130 auditioned and experienced volunteer choristers. Our smaller professional ensemble, the Toronto Mendelssohn Singers (TMSingers) is one of Canada's leading professional chamber choirs and was created to deliver more intimate, nimble repertoire pieces in a variety of venues, traversing the line between concert and experience and showcasing the individual expression of professional vocalists

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor and Artistic Director

Jean-Sébastien Vallée is a renowned Canadian-American conductor, scholar, and pedagogue known for his expertise in vocal, choral, and orchestral repertoires. With a career spanning over several decades, Vallée has conducted numerous ensembles across North America, Europe, and Asia, and has prepared choruses for some of the world's most prestigious orchestras including the Chicago and Toronto Symphony Orchestras, l'Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, and the National Arts Center Orchestra in Ottawa.

Dr. Vallée is Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the renowned 160-voice Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and the professional Toronto Mendelssohn Singers. In addition, Jean-Sébastien is Full Professor of Music, Director of Choral Studies, and Coordinator of the

Conducting & Ensembles Area at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University. He has previously served as the Director of Choral Studies at California State University, Los Angeles, and was on the choral faculty of the University of Redlands. Dr. Vallée holds degrees from Laval University, Sherbrooke University, the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a doctorate in conducting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Vallée's recordings have been broadcast internationally and include Remember (ATMA, 2024), Distance (ATMA, 2021), Requiem (ATMA, 2018 – requiems by Fauré and Duruflé), and Lux (ATMA, 2017).

His recent and upcoming engagements include concerts at the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Budapest, concerts with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Orchestre symphonique de Québec, and a residency at Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai School. In June 2025, Vallée will be honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from Université Laval.

Jonathan Oldengarm, organ

Hailed for his “unalloyed musicality”, organist, harpsichordist, chamber musician and arranger Jonathan Oldengarm thrives at the nexus of scholarship and creative performance. Passionate about repertoire from the 16th to 21st centuries, he finds his highest calling in ensemble playing.

Jonathan maintains an active solo performance, broadcast and recording schedule, and is a laureate of several international competitions. Recording credits include discs on the ATMA Classique, Klanglogo and Analekta labels with Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal; saxophonist Claudia Tesorino; the Ottawa Bach Choir (Lisette Canton, director); the A&P Choir (Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor); and Buzz Brass. Recent performance collaborations include the 2023 RCCO National Convention, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Trinity Bach Project, the Elora Festival, and the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir.

Jonathan is Minister of Music and Organist at Toronto's Metropolitan United Church, where he oversees an extensive musical programme that includes multiple ensembles, two concert series, and numerous annual musical service highlights. He is also responsible for maintaining and programming the church's treasury of instruments, including Canada's largest pipe organ, a 54-bell carillon, and more.

He holds degrees in organ and harpsichord performance from Wilfrid Laurier and McGill Universities; the Fellowship diploma of the Royal Canadian College of Organists; and studied at the Hochschule für Musik in Stuttgart, Germany. From 2008 until 2022 he taught organ, harpsichord, keyboard skills, and liturgical improvisation at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University, while serving as Director of Music and Organist at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal.

Aaron Manswell, composer

Aaron Manswell is a composer of soulful music, painting vivid pictures to contemporary themes using an assorted palette. A native of Toronto, Ontario, his songs have been premiered and recorded across North America by ensembles including the Grand Philharmonic Choir, the Amadeus Choir of Greater Toronto, the Nathaniel Dett Chorale and Choral Arts Initiative – a Southern California-based choir who featured his song “Stick with Love” on their 2024 album *Tapestry of Becoming* which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Traditional Classical Albums chart. This song made him the winner of the 2022 Grand Philharmonic Choir Canada-wide Composition Contest and the runner-up for the 2023 American Choral Directors Association Brock Prize for Student Composers. In February 2023, he was a featured artist for the Canadian Opera Company’s Showcase Series, delivering *Off-Spring Live*: a concert of his works reflective of his simultaneous relationship with Classical, R&B, Hip-Hop, and Gospel music. He is a music producer and keyboardist for multiple award-winning Canadian Pop artists. As a film composer, he has written original scores for films premiered at the Toronto and Montreal Black Film Festivals. As an educator, he is the former Wind Band Conductor at Crawford Adventist Academy, leading the concert bands to top festival prizes and live recordings. Manswell has earned music composition degrees from Oakwood University and the University of Memphis and is currently the composer-in-residence for the MacMillan Singers at the University of Toronto where he is completing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition.

Crescenzo DiCecco, composer

Crescenzo DiCecco is a Canadian composer, songwriter and educator based in Toronto. He earned his Bachelor of Musical Composition from the University of Toronto in 2019 and since then has continued to develop his craft through playing, teaching and learning from all aspects of music. His diverse musical background and taste spans from classical music to funk and rock bands, to electronic dance music and Hindustani classical. This unique

palette of experience and interests is what shapes his sound and inspires his aim to blend the traditional and the modern

TMChoir Choral Composition Competition

TMChoir's annual competition for emerging composers in Canada was launched in 2015/16. The winner of the competition wins the \$1,000 Debbie Fleming Prize for Choral Composition and the work is premiered at a TMChoir concert. TMChoir is proud that this competition brings new works from emerging composers to choral music in Canada.

The 2024/25 winning composition is *Little Welcome Son* by Crescenzo DiCecco.

Stephanie Martin, composer

Canadian composer Stephanie Martin's music is performed by choirs across North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. A life-long participant in choirs of all sorts, her work flourishes in both sacred and secular settings, addressing current issues, and timeless themes. Her recent oratorio *WATER: an environmental oratorio* premiered in 2023 with the Grand Philharmonic of Kitchener-Waterloo. Other major choral works include *The Sun, the Wind, and the Man with the Cloak* (2019) and *Requiem for All Souls* (2017). Martin has recorded for Naxos, Marquis, and Dorian labels and holds degrees from the University of Toronto, Wilfrid Laurier University, and the Royal Canadian College of Organists. In the 2025/2026 Season, Stephanie joins the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir as Composer-in-Residence.

Toronto Mendelssohn Choir

Soprano

Catherine Alberti
Tia Andriani
Ann-Marie Barrett-Tandy
Jocelyn Belfer
Louise Boyden
Leslie Bradshaw
Jamie Brown-Hart
Hannah Carty
Ada Chan
Laureen Choi
Gillian Cook
Maria Farrier
Kim Finkelstein
Leslie Finlay
Charlotte Fowler
Marina Galeano
Rebecca Genge *
Angela Gibbon
Alison Haines
Leslie Higgins *
Pat M. Irwin
Carmen Skyla Jackson
Christine Kerr
Gabrysia Kowalik
Alysha Ladha
Alice Liu
Jocelyne Lussier
Marlene Lynds
Lindsay McIntyre *
Cathy Minnaar
Kaitlin Montgomery
Michelle Murphy
Camila Mussa
Emily Parker *
Ariane Prescott
Michelle Prunier

Mary Ridgley
Heather Rowe
Anna Shestakovska
Jaclyn Siou
Chong Tan
Celeste Morgan Thordarson
Jennie Worden
Sophya Yumakulov
Paulina Zmak

Alto

Jane Agosta
Marlo Alcock
Renée Ardiente
Amy Ash
Julia Barber *
Eunseong Cho
Rebecca Claborn *
Nina Coutinho
Kristin Crawford
Sinéad Doherty-Grant
Adrienne Eastwood
Kirsten Fielding *
Jennifer Friedman Muller
Gillian Grant
Ann Griffin
Noemi Jimenez-Furquet
Lauren Keating
Melissa Lee
Simone Lee
Mavis Salmena Lyons
Rebecca Manga
Miranda Martinez
Ryan McDonald *
Heather McGrath
Jennifer McGraw
Rachel McGuire

Bethany Jo Mikelait
Zareen Moyeed
Susan E. Mumford
Annie Odom
Lisette Pereira
Frances Quilty
Taya Rosenberg
Yara Rubb
Jan Szot
Kseniia Temkina
Julia Thomas
Jennifer Ujimoto
Kiley Venables
Patti Vipond
Joyce Wong
Tarquin Wongkee
Susan Worthington
Virginia Wright
Yuyang Wu

Tenor

Mitch Aldrich *
Yeshua Arcos Martinez
Tom Bishop
Sam Broverman
Karel Cantelar Ramos
Michael Clipperton
Peter DeRoche
Omar Flores
John Gladwell
Nathan Gritter *
Alejandro Guerrero
Channing Huang
Charles Im
Dustin Jarred
Lucas Jin
Clement Kam

Hassan Khan
Nathaniel Lapp
Francis Lam
Eric Lee
Daniel Meeks
Nicholas Nicolaidis *
Daniel Nicolucci
Neil Payne
David Serber
Sharang Sharma *
Ralf Staebler
Terrence Tsang
Christopher Wenman

Bass

Neil Aronoff *
Shahriar Aslani

Jeffrey Baker
Alex Chan
David Chan
Yoosik Choi
Scott Crocker
Steven Foster
Andrew Gilchrist
Michael Harrison
Kieran Kane *
John Lemke
Cliff Liu
Doug Long
Matt Lozinski
Joseph McGowan IV
Frederick Mei
David Peer
David B. Powell

Milovan Prelević
Seymour Stern
David Tillmann
Karl Tomczak
Chia-An (Victor) Tung
Sean van Wyk
Jonah Wall
Paul Winkelmanns *
Albert Wong
Isaiah Yankech
Amos Yip
David Yung *
Bruce Yungblut

* indicates TMSingers

Text & Translations

Richte mich, Gott Op. 78 No. 2

Felix Mendelssohn / text: Psalm 43

Richte mich, Gott, und führe meine Sache
wider das unheilige Volk
Und errette mich von den falschen und
bösen Leuten.

Denn du bist der Gott, du bist der Gott
meiner Stärke;
Warum verstößest du mich?
Warum lässest du mich so traurig gehn,
Wenn mein Feind mich drängt?

Sende dein Licht und deine Wahrheit,
Dass sie mich leiten zu deinem heiligen
Berge,
Und zu deiner Wohnung.

Do me justice, o God, and fight my fight
against a faithless people;
from the deceitful and impious man, rescue
me.

For you, o God, are my strength.
Why do you keep me so far away?
Why must I go about in mourning,
With the enemy oppressing me?

Send forth your light and your fidelity;
they shall lead me on
And bring me to your holy mountain,
to your dwelling place.

Daß ich hineingehe zum Altar Gottes, zu
dem Gott,
Der meine Freude und Wonne, der meine
Freude und Wonne ist,
Und dir, Gott, auf der Harfe danke, mein
Gott.

Then will I go in to the altar of God,
the God of my gladness and joy;
Then will I give you thanks upon the harp,
my God

Was betrübst du dich meine Seele, und bist
so unruhig in mir?

Why are you so downcast, o my soul?
And why do you sigh within me?

Harre auf Gott! Denn ich werde ihm noch
danken,
Dass er meines Angesichts Hülfe,
Und mein Gott ist.

Hope in God! Then I will again give him
thanks,
In the presence of my savior and my God.

One Thing at a Time

Aaron Manswell

(World Premiere & TMChoir Commission)

One thing at a time, one thing at a time.
Take it all in stride, one thing at a time.
Just one job in sight keeps your spirit light.
Life won't pass you by, one thing at a time.

Take it easy, do this one thing right.
Incomplete won't leave you satisfied.
You're gonna move more efficiently, get in a groove.
Concentrate, try it one thing at a time.

Release the mess, remove the stress.
Enjoy yourself, preserve your health.

Little Welcome Son

Crescenzo DiCecco

(Choral Composition Competition Winner & World Premiere)

Poem by Alice Meynell

Given, not lent,
And not withdrawn—once sent –
This Infant of mankind, this One,
Is still the little welcome Son.

New every year,
New-born and newly dear,
He comes with tidings and a song,
The ages long, the ages long.

Even as the cold
Keen winter grows not old;
As childhood is so fresh, foreseen,
And spring in the familiar green;

Sudden as sweet
Come the expected feet.
All joy is young, and new all art,
And He, too, Whom we have by heart.

Nothing Gold Can Stay

Stephanie Martin
Poem by Robert Frost

Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.

Requiem, op.9

Maurice Duruflé

I. Introit

Requiem aeternam
dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Te decet hymnus, Deus in Sion,
et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem;
exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro
veniet.

Eternal rest give to them, O Lord
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
A hymn, O God, becometh Thee in Zion, and
a vow shall be paid to Thee in Jerusalem
O Lord, hear my prayer, all flesh shall come
to Thee.

II. Kyrie

Kyrie eleison,
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy on us,
Christ have mercy on us.
Lord have mercy on us.

III. Domine Jesu Christe

Domine Jesu Christe, rex gloriae,
libera animas omnium fidelium
defunctorum de poenis inferni et de
profundo lacu.

Libera eas de ore leonis,
ne absorbeat eas tartarus, ne cadant in
obscurum.

Sed signifer sanctus Michael
repraesentet eas in lucem sanctam,
quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini
ejus.

Hostias et preces tibi, Domine, laudis
offerimus.

Tu suscipe pro animabus illis, quarum hodie
memoriam facimus,
fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam
quam olim Abrahae promisisti,
et semini ejus.

O Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver
the souls of all the faithful departed from
the pains of hell and from the deep pit;

Deliver them from the lion's mouth that hell
engulf them not, nor they fall into darkness.

But that Michael, the holy standardbearer,
bring them into the holy light, which Thou
once didst promise to Abraham and his
seed.

We offer Thee, O Lord, sacrifices and
prayers of praise;

do Thou accept them for those souls whom
we this day commemorate; grant them, O
Lord, to pass from death to the life which
Thou once didst promise to Abraham and
his seed.

IV. Sanctus

Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth,
pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis!

Benedictus, qui venit in nomine Domini.

Hosanna in excelsis!

Holy, Lord God of hosts.
The heavens and the earth
are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He Who cometh
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

V. Pie Jesu

Pie Jesu Domine,
dona eis requiem sempiternam

Gentle Lord Jesus,
grant them eternal rest.

VI. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem sempiternam.

Lamb of God, Who takest away
the sins of the world:
grant them eternal rest.

VII. Lux aeterna

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,

May light eternal shine upon them, O Lord,

cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,
quia pius es.
Requiem aeternam
dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

VIII. Libera me

Libera me, Domine,
de morte aeterna,
in die illa tremenda,
quando coeli
movendi sunt et terra,
dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.
Tremens factus sum ego et timeo
dum discussio venerit
atque ventura ira,
quando coeli
movendi sunt et terra.
Dies illa, dies irae,
calamitatis et miseriae,
dies magna et amara valde.
Requiem aeternam
dona eis, Domine
et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Libera me, Domine,
in die illa tremenda
quando coeli
movendi sunt et terra,
dum veneris judicare
saeculum per ignem.

IX. In Paradisum

deducant Angeli in tuo
adventu suscipiant te Martyres
et perducant te in civitatem sanctam
Jerusalem.
Chorus Angelorum te suscipit
et cum Lazaro quondam paupere
aeternam habeas requiem.

with Thy saints forever,
with Thy saints forever,
for Thou art kind.
Eternal rests.
give to them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Deliver me,
O Lord, from eternal death
on that dreadful day
when the heavens and the earth shall be
moved,
and Thou shalt come to judge the world by
fire.
I quake with fear and I tremble
awaiting the day of account
and the wrath to come,
when the heavens
and the earth shall be moved.
Day of mourning, day of wrath, of calamity,
of misery,
the great day, and most bitter.
Eternal rest
give to them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
Deliver me, O Lord,
from eternal death
on that dreadful day
when the heavens
and the earth shall be moved,
and Thou shalt come
To judge the world by fire. .

May the angels receive them in Paradise,
at thy coming may the martyrs receive thee
and bring thee into the holy city Jerusalem.
There may the chorus of angels receive
thee, and with Lazarus, once a beggar, may
thou have eternal rest.