

# Toronto Mendelssohn Choir

Dare to Discover

---

## Annual Report 2024/25



# Message from TMChoir Leadership

This year marked a landmark season as we celebrated 130 years of choral excellence and innovation. From Beethoven's *Missa solennis* to world premieres from our Composer-in-Residence Aaron Manswell, every performance honoured legacy while championing the future of Canadian choral music. We concluded this milestone season with a moving community concert featuring Duruflé's *Requiem* and new works—a program that captured the essence of TMChoir: bold artistry, deep community roots, and an unwavering belief in the power of voices raised together.

Since its founding in 1894, TMChoir has epitomized choral excellence, earning recognition through accolades like a Juno award and Grammy nomination, and performing at iconic venues worldwide. Yet, at its heart, the choir remains a community—a place of belonging for choristers, audiences, and creators alike. This enduring commitment to both artistic excellence and community ensures that TMChoir continues to enrich and inspire.

Under the visionary leadership of Artistic Director Jean-Sébastien Vallée, whose talent and artistry continue to elevate our artistic legacy, we have embraced an ambitious and diverse repertoire. This season, Jean-Sébastien made his conducting debut with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, leading performances of Handel's *Messiah*—a testament to his exceptional artistry and the depth of our collaboration with the TSO. His leadership has been instrumental as we shape a future that honours tradition while boldly advancing into new artistic territory.

This milestone season also marked a period of organizational transformation. Through the dedication of our Board, staff, and the unwavering support of our community, we have strengthened our foundation and enhanced our operational capacity. Our improved financial position reflects both careful stewardship and the confidence our donors and audiences place in this institution. These efforts position us well to continue our artistic mission for years to come.

Being part of the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir's journey during this landmark anniversary season has been profoundly meaningful. As my term on the Board enters its final year, I find myself reflecting on what a great honour and privilege it was to serve this storied Canadian institution and contribute to its remarkable 130-year legacy.

Sincerely,

**David Raju**

Chair, Board of Directors

As I reflect on the 2024/25 season, I am filled with gratitude for the extraordinary artistry and commitment that defined this year. This season celebrated our choral legacy while embracing new artistic horizons through innovative programming, meaningful collaborations, and the profound connections music creates.

Our main season showcased both beloved masterworks and bold new voices. From the immersion of *Visionaries: Vivaldi & DaVinci* to the grandeur of Beethoven's *Missa solennis*, each performance demonstrated the depth and versatility of our ensemble. The world premieres from our Composer-in-Residence, Aaron Manswell, brought fresh Canadian voices to the fore, while our season-closing program featuring Duruflé's *Requiem* reminded us of music's power to console and unite.

Our partnership with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra continues to be a cornerstone of our work, enriching Toronto's cultural landscape. Performing Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, and Bartók's *The Miraculous Mandarin* alongside this world-class orchestra remains a special privilege, bringing these monumental works to life for thousands of listeners. We are thrilled that our recording of *The Miraculous Mandarin* will be released in February 2026, preserving this extraordinary artistic partnership for audiences worldwide.

Community engagement remained central to our mission this season. Our inaugural Conducting Mentoring Program welcomed emerging conductors into our rehearsal process, while the expanded Exchange professional development series brought together leaders from across Canada's vibrant choral community. Through four joyful Singstation Saturdays, we welcomed over 400 community members to experience the transformative joy of singing together.

As I look ahead, I am honoured to continue as Artistic Director for another five years, a renewed commitment that reflects our shared vision for TMChoir's future. It is a privilege to witness the dedication of our choristers, the passion of our audiences, and the generosity of our donors. Together, we ensure choral music continues to inspire and unite.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Sincerely,

**Jean-Sébastien Vallée**

Artistic Director & Principal Conductor

# 24/25 Concert Season

The 2024/25 season celebrated TMChoir's 130th anniversary with performances spanning Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* to world premieres by Composer-in-Residence Aaron Manswell. Under Artistic Director Jean-Sébastien Vallée's leadership, the ensemble grew to 170 singers and employed many professional artists, showcasing both historical masterworks and bold new Canadian voices.

The season's artistic achievements reflected TMChoir's dual commitment to tradition and innovation. Collaborations with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra brought signature performances of Handel's *Messiah* and Mozart's *Requiem* to wide audiences, while the launch of our inaugural Conducting Mentoring Program and expanded Exchange platform reinforced TMChoir's role as a cornerstone of Canada's choral community, culminating in Duruflé's *Requiem* and a moving community concert.



## The Love Affair: Waltz & Tango

November 3, 2024  
Koerner Hall

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor  
Charlotte Siegel, soprano  
Toronto Mendelssohn Choir  
Toronto Mendelssohn Singers  
Jonathan Goldman, bandoneon  
Instrumental Ensemble  
**Audience Attendance: 639**

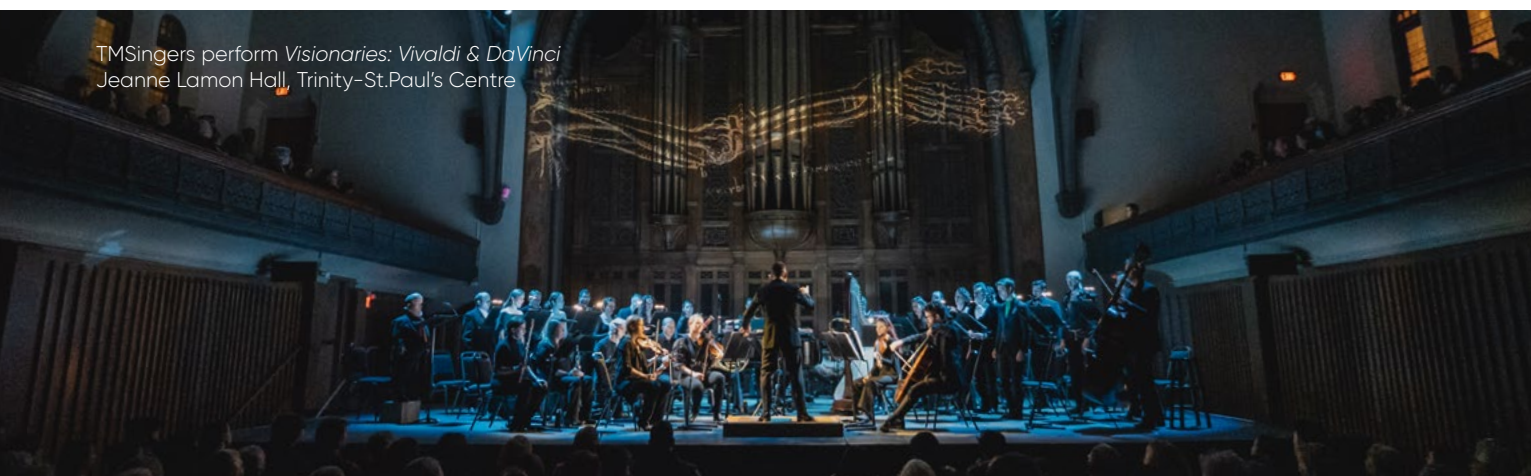


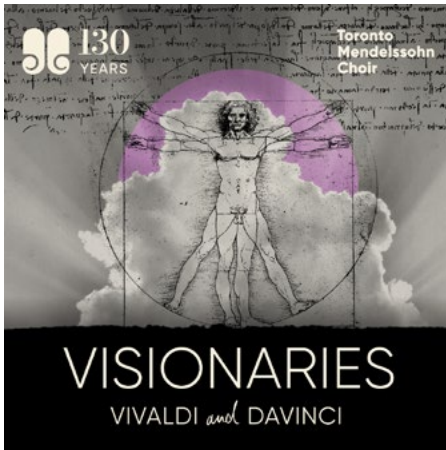
## Festival of Carols

December 3 & 4, 2024  
Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor  
Jonathan Oldengarm, organ  
Toronto Mendelssohn Choir  
**Audience Attendance: 2,059**

TMSingers perform *Visionaries: Vivaldi & DaVinci*  
Jeanne Lamont Hall, Trinity-St.Paul's Centre





## Visionaries: Vivaldi & DaVinci

February 8, 2025

Jeanne Lamon Hall (Trinity-St. Paul's Centre)

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor

Toronto Mendelssohn Singers

Instrumental Ensemble

**Audience Attendance: 458**



## Beethoven's Missa solemnis

April 4, 2025

Roy Thomson Hall

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor

Tracy Cantin, soprano

Simona Genga, mezzo-soprano

Frédéric Antoun, tenor

Brett Polegato, baritone

Toronto Mendelssohn Choir

Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony

**Audience Attendance: 1,263**



## Duruflé's Requiem (Community Concert)

May 9, 2025

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor

Toronto Mendelssohn Choir

Aaron Manswell, composer

Jonathan Oldengarm, organ

**Audience Attendance: 707**

# TSO Concert Collaborations

The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra have stood together for nearly 90 years—a partnership that began in 1935 and continues to define the pinnacle of collaborative artistry in Canada. Through this enduring alliance, TMChoir brings the full power and passion of choral music to the orchestral stage, creating performances that transcend the boundaries of both art forms and leave audiences profoundly moved.

## Saraste Conducts Mozart's Requiem

October 9–12, 2024  
Roy Thomson Hall

Jukka-Pekka Saraste, conductor  
Siobhan Stagg, soprano  
Karen Cargill, mezzo-soprano  
Frédéric Antoun, tenor  
Dashon Burton, bass-baritone  
Toronto Symphony Orchestra  
Toronto Mendelssohn Choir  
Jean-Sébastien Vallée, chorusmaster

## Brilliant Bartók

November 21–23, 2024  
Roy Thomson Hall

Gustavo Gimeno, conductor  
Toronto Symphony Orchestra  
Toronto Mendelssohn Choir  
Jean-Sébastien Vallée, chorusmaster



Toronto Mendelssohn Choir performs *Brilliant Bartók* with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra  
Roy Thomson Hall

Jean-Sébastien Vallée conducts the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir in Handel's *Messiah*  
Roy Thomson Hall



## Messiah with the TSO

December 17–22, 2024  
Roy Thomson Hall

Jean-Sébastien Vallée, conductor  
Sherezade Panthaki, soprano  
Nicholas Burns, countertenor  
Josh Lovell, tenor  
Enrico Lagasca, bass-baritone  
Toronto Symphony Orchestra  
Toronto Mendelssohn Choir



“What Vallée has done with these singers is remarkable – the evenness of tone, their ability to play with sound, the dynamics that infuse their music-making.”

–**Paula Citron**  
Ludwig van Toronto

This season marked a milestone in that partnership as Artistic Director Jean-Sébastien Vallée made his TSO conducting debut, leading both the choir and orchestra through four triumphant performances of Handel's *Messiah*.

# Community & Education Programs

In 24/25 TMChoir deepened its commitment to education and community as a choral organization—not just a choir. The inaugural Conducting Mentoring Program welcomed emerging conductors for immersive intensives, embedding them directly into our rehearsal and performance process. We expanded our professional development platform, Exchange, with nine facilitators representing the vibrancy of Canada’s choral community, fostering connections and strengthening the national choral landscape.

Singsation continued to thrive, welcoming over 400 community members across four joyful iterations to sing and grow their skills together. Whether on stage or in shared learning spaces, TMChoir remained a hub for connection, growth, and the future of the choral arts—bringing people together through the transformative power of voices raised in song.



# 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 2024 to the end of the 24/25 season in August 2025.

## Government Supporters



## Corporate & Private Foundation Partners

(2) Anonymous

Deloitte LLP

Granite Club

Henry White Kinnear Foundation

KPMG LLP

Mary-Margaret Webb Foundation

McLean Foundation

Metcalf Foundation

Mon Ark Journeys Inc

Nick & Lynn Ross  
Charitable Foundation

Slaight Family Foundation

The Azrieli Foundation

## 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 (6)	William Galloway	Isabel Pierce †
Irene Bailey	Douglas Gardner †	Amy Rossiter †
Charles & Lenora Butler	John Grebby	Sue Sherman & Don McCuaig
Lloyd Chiotti	Clement Kam	Ross Robert Stretton
Elizabeth & Tony Churchill	Janice Schuyler-Ketchen	Susan Q Wilson
Debbie Fleming	Eleanor Kunyacia †	Denny Young
Anita Rundans-Gaide & Ivars Gaide	Thomas C. Logan †	
	Sue Newman & Wilf Trivett	
	Philip Penney †	

---

### Visionary (\$20,000+)

Mr. Tom Laurie  
Thomas C. Logan  
Philip Penney †  
Frances & Tim Price

### Platinum (\$10,000–\$19,999)

Robert & Andrea Chisholm  
Jan Szot  
Philip Taylor

### Gold (\$5,000–\$9,999)

Deborah Finlayson and Dan Leader  
Diane & Dick Freeborough  
Norman Martin  
David and Tabitha Raju

---

### Silver (\$2,500–\$4,999)

Pat M. Irwin  
Sean Musselman & Jane Proctor

Annie Odom  
Marg Rappolt

Amy R. Tibble

---

### Bronze (\$1,000–\$2,499)

Michael Baker  
Phelps Bell  
Lenora Butler In Memory of Charles  
Butler  
Frances Chan  
Mary Chang  
Marjorie Clegg

Leslie Cooper in memory  
of Barry Clegg  
Teri Dennis-Davies  
Reinhard Dotzlaw  
Ilone Harrison  
Marilyn Isaac Stewart  
Dina Kamal  
Dr. Elizabeth Kocmur

Elizabeth Lambert  
Thomas C. MacMillan  
Sachiko Marshall  
Mr. David Powell  
Alan Richardson  
Frances Shepherd  
Rev. Cynthia R. & Ross R. Stretton

† deceased

## Benefactor (\$500–\$999)

Ms. Hilary Apfelstadt	Janice Schuyler-Ketchen	Lina & Derek Stinnes
Ann-Marie Barrett-Tandy	Richard Lucas & Lorraine Saab-Lucas	Maureen Tingley
Christie Bates	Jonathan Oldengarm	Susan Worthington
Laureen Choi	Mr. Neil Payne	Heather Young
Erin Finlay	Larry Sage	
Clement Kam	Kenneth Stephen	
Christine Kerr		

---

## Patron (\$200–\$499)

Anina Abrie	Leslie Finlay	Denise Lau	Seymour Stern
Mr. James C. Baillie	Marg Fisher	Mr. David Leigh	Constance Sugiyama
Rob Boeckner	Ms. Brenda Graham	John Lemke	Beverlee Swayze
Suzanne Boggild	John Grebby	Thomas Pam	Andrew Szonyi
Judy Claborn	Jim Harvey	Daniel Parkinson	Gail Todgham
Mary Corcoran	Dr. Helen Holtby	Joan Patterson	Michael Tomczak
Mr. Anthony Ennis	Jean Hunnisett	Tracy Paulenko	Margaret Wilkinson
Norm F. Fielding	Peter LaFlair	Lorraine Saab	Mrs. Sylvia Winder
Kirsten Fielding	Francis Lam	Craig Saunders & Jennie Worden	Art & Marguerite Yung

---

## Friend (\$100–\$199)

Lezlie Bain	William & Cher Farrell	Vicky Koudstaal	Mr. Mervyn Pickering
Brian Barron	Linda Fischer	Eric Lee	David Serber
Louise Boyden	Debbie Fleming	Anonymous	John Shydrowsky
Mavis Brown	Sheila Fowler	Frederick K.K. Leung	Carol Small
Alicia Bulwick	Mr. John Fraser	Adam Malcolm	Peteris Spels
Marcella Bungay Stanier	Paul Gibbon	Murray Marchant	Ms. Susan Summerville
Maggie Cain	Joan Gladwell	Anonymous	Karl Tomczak
Mr. Seungbum Choi	John Gladwell	Gloria Martin	Mr. Hitishi Ujimoto
Heather Clark	Mr. Stephen Glogowski	Ms. Christine McClymont	Sean van Wyk
Sarah Climenhaga	Julia Gorman	Heather McGrath	Patti Vipond
Anonymous	Pamela Grant	Ken McRory	Alan Ward
D. Helen	John Grinvalds	Susan Mumford	Marjorie Wiens
Anthony Doll	Christopher Hatley	Lynda Newmarch	Susan Q Wilson
Cora M.M. Dusk	Barbara Jackel	Mrs. Catherine Peer	Denise Wong
Glen Earl	Brian Jantzi	Norbert Perera	Virginia Wright
Carol Fahie	Peter Kirby	Rick Phillips	Bruce Yungblut

## Supporter (\$10–\$99)

Laura Adlers  
Rebecca Amyotte  
Elizabeth Asselstine  
Oscar Avila  
Carolyn Baker  
Mary Barr  
Malcolm Blincow  
Karen Carlson  
Gary Chaimowitz  
Amy E. Colson  
Mrs. Mary Comi  
Cynthia Dann–Beardsley  
Melissa Grover Dickstein

Richard Earls  
Ms. Diane Fennell  
Tania Fertuck  
Frank & Jennifer Flower  
Janet Fothergill  
Ann Fraser  
Qingke Han  
Ms. Ellen Hrivnak  
Miss Joan Irwin  
Sheila Jack  
Andrew &  
Pronica Janikowski  
Denise Johnson

Paula Karger  
Maria Kazarnovsky  
Devon Klaas  
Ildikó Kovács  
Mrs. Sue Kralik  
Cecilia Lo  
Dr. Stanley Lofsky  
Leslie McIntosh  
Lisa Milligan  
Ted Minden  
Lesley Murray  
Jungmi Na  
Rachel Neville–Fox

Mary Ellen Pennal  
Lisette Pereira  
Cassandra Priede  
Sergio Ribeiro  
Catherine Sandrasagra  
Sandi Schafer  
Nellie Scholtes  
Thomas Shaw Stiffel  
Mr. Rod Sherkin  
Susan Traill  
Walter Rafael Villanueva  
Peter Warth  
Jae Yang



# Our People in 24/25

## Artistic Staff

**Jean-Sébastien Vallée**  
Artistic Director

**Aaron Manswell**  
Composer-in-Residence

**Irene Gregorio**  
Collaborative Pianist

**Rena Roussin**  
Musicologist-in-Residence

**Nicholas Nicolaidis**  
Assistant Conductor

## Administration

**Daniela Nardi**  
Executive Director  
(March 2024 - March 2025)

**Kathleen Stevenson**  
Director of Artistic Operations

**Devon Klass**  
Director Marketing & Development  
(April 2024 - January 2026)

**Yasaman Nouri**  
Digital Marketing &  
Communications Manager

**Bryan Kling**  
Production Assistant  
(October 2024 - June 2025)

## Board of Directors

**David Raju**  
Chair

**Teri Dennis-Davies**  
Co-Vice-Chair

**Marg Rappolt**  
Co-Vice-Chair

**Sean Musselman**  
Treasurer

**Mary Chang**

**Pat Irwin**

**Dina Kamal**

**Adam Malcolm**

**Sachiko Marshall**

**Alan Richardson**

**Jennie Worden**

**Susan Worthington**

## Financial Services

Young Associates

## Design

Jae Yang



# The Choristers of 24/25

\* indicates TMSingers

## Soprano

Catherine Alberti	Maria Farrier	Gabrysia Kowalik	Mary Ridgley
Tia Andriani	Kim Finkelstein	Alysha Ladha	Heather Rowe
Ann-Marie Barrett-Tandy	Leslie Finlay	Alice Liu	Anna Shestakovska
Jocelyn Belfer	Charlotte Fowler	Jocelyne Lussier	Jaclyn Siou
Louise Boyden	Marina Galeano	Marlene Lynds	Chong Tan
Leslie Bradshaw	Rebecca Genge *	Lindsay McIntyre *	Celeste Morgan
Jamie Brown-Hart	Angela Gibbon	Cathy Minnaar	Thordarson
Hannah Carty	Alison Haines	Kaitlin Montgomery	Jennie Worden
Ada Chan	Leslie Higgins *	Michelle Murphy	Sophya Yumakulov
Laureen Choi	Pat M. Irwin	Camila Mussa	Paulina Zmak
Gillian Cook	Carmen Skyla Jackson	Ariane Prescott	
Rayna Crandlemire *	Christine Kerr	Michelle Prunier	

---

## Alto

Jane Agosta	Jennifer Friedman Muller	Jennifer McGraw	Julia Thomas
Marlo Alcock	Gillian Grant	Rachel McGuire	Jennifer Ujimoto
Renée Ardiente	Ann Griffin	Bethany Jo Mikelaït	Kiley Venables
Amy Ash	Noemi Jimenez-Furquet	Zareen Moyeed	Patti Vipond
Julia Barber *	Lauren Keating	Susan E. Mumford	Joyce Wong
Eunseong Cho	Melissa Lee	Annie Odom	Tarquin Wongkee
Rebecca Claborn *	Simone Lee	Lisette Pereira	Susan Worthington
Nina Coutinho	Mavis Salmena Lyons	Frances Quilty	Virginia Wright
Kristin Crawford	Rebecca Manga	Taya Rosenberg	Yuyang Wu
Sinéad Doherty-Grant	Miranda Martinez	Yara Rubb	
Adrienne Eastwood	Ryan McDonald *	Jan Szot	
Kirsten Fielding *	Heather McGrath	Kseniia Temkina	

## Tenor

Mitch Aldrich *	John Gladwell	Hassan Khan	David Serber
Yeshua Arcos Martinez	Nathan Gritter *	Nathaniel Lapp	Sharang Sharma *
Tom Bishop	Alejandro Guerrero	Francis Lam	Ralf Staebler
Sam Broverman	Channing Huang	Eric Lee	Terrence Tsang
Karel Cantelar Ramos	Charles Im	Daniel Meeks	Christopher Wenman
Michael Clipperton	Dustin Jarred	Nicholas Nicolaidis *	
Peter DeRoche	Lucas Jin	Daniel Nicolucci	
Omar Flores	Clement Kam	Neil Payne	

---

## Bass

Neil Aronoff *	Andrew Gilchrist	Frederick Mei	Sean van Wyk
Shahriar Aslani	Michael Harrison	David Peer	Jonah Wall
Jeffrey Baker	Kieran Kane *	David B. Powell	Paul Winkelmanns *
Alex Chan	John Lemke	Milovan Prelević	Albert Wong
David Chan	Cliff Liu	Seymour Stern	Isaiah Yankech
Yoosik Choi	Doug Long	David Tillmann	Amos Yip
Scott Crocker	Matt Lozinski	Karl Tomczak	David Yung *
Steven Foster	Joseph McGowan IV	Chia-An (Victor) Tung	Bruce Yungblut



A large choir is performing in a cathedral. The choir members are dressed in dark robes and are arranged in a semi-circle on a raised platform. In the foreground, a large audience of people is seated in wooden pews, looking towards the choir. The cathedral's architecture features high, arched windows and a central altar area illuminated by a bright light. The overall atmosphere is solemn and grand.

**130**  
YEARS  
DARE *to* DISCOVER

Dare to Discover  
[tmchoir.org](http://tmchoir.org)