



PRESENTED AT  
St. Andrew's-Wesley  
United Church

ON  
April 22, 2022

Kari Turunen  
CONDUCTOR



# PATH OF MIRACLES



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## Vancouver Chamber Choir

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# VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR

Artistic Director Kari Turunen began leading the Vancouver Chamber Choir - one of Canada's premier professional choral ensembles - in September 2019, its 49th concert season.

Jon Washburn founded the choir in 1971 and it has become an amazing success story, ranking with the handful of North America's best professional choruses and noted for its diverse repertoire and performing excellence. The choir has presented concerts at home in Vancouver and on tour across Canada. International excursions have taken them to the USA, Mexico, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Finland, France, Germany, the Czech Republic, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Ukraine.

Honoured with the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence by Chorus America, the choir has performed countless concerts and broadcasts, released 36 recordings and received numerous awards. Foremost supporters of Canadian music, they are responsible for commissions and premieres of 334 choral works by 145 composers and arrangers, most of whom are Canadian. Over the years the choir has sung over 4,000 performances of works by Canadian composers, in addition to their extensive international repertoire.

The choir's award-winning educational programs include the *Conductors' Symposium* for advanced choral conductors, *Interplay* interactive workshops for choral composers, *Focus* professional development program for student singers, *OnSite* visitations for school choirs, the biennial *Young Composers Competition*, and many on-tour workshops and residencies.



## KARI TURUNEN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Kari Turunen was appointed Artistic Director of the Vancouver Chamber Choir - one of Canada's premier professional choral ensembles - in 2019, its 49th concert season. He is a versatile performer and continues to play an important role in the choral music scene in his native Finland as an artistic director, educator and administrator. He has toured extensively across Europe and Asia as a conductor, performer, clinician and adjudicator.

Dr. Turunen has been awarded numerous international prizes with the choral ensembles he has directed: Akademiska Damkören Lyran, Akademiska Sångföreningen, Kampin Laulu Chamber Choir, Chorus Cantorum Finlandiae, Spira Ensemble and the professional early music ensembles Ensemble Petraloysio and I Dodici, with which he continues to work. He was a founding member of Lumen Valo and appeared with them in over 250 concerts and nine critically acclaimed recordings. In 2008, he was named Finnish Choral Conductor of the Year and is the recipient of over 20 grants from Finnish and Finnish-Swedish Cultural Foundations.

In addition to his artistic activities, Dr. Turunen has been active in festival administration. He is the Artistic Director of the 2022 Finnish-Swedish Song Celebration and the 2023 Tampere Vocal Music Festival and was the Artistic Director of the Aurore Renaissance Festival in Helsinki from 2015-2020. He was also Chair of the Finnish Choral Directors' Association (FCDA) from 1997-2018.

Kari Turunen holds a doctorate in early music performance practice from the University of the Arts, Helsinki, and an MA in choral conducting from the Sibelius Academy. He lives in Vancouver with his wife, Anna.



The Vancouver Chamber Choir acknowledges that it operates and performs on the unceded Indigenous land belonging to the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səl̓ilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We are grateful for this privilege.

VANCOUVER  
CHAMBER CHOIR

SOPRANOS

Emily M Cheung  
Christina Cichos  
Siri Olesen  
Krista Pederson  
Madeline Lucy Smith

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Tabitha Brasso-Ernst  
Maria Golas  
Fabiana Katz  
Dolores Scott

TENORS

Eric Biskupski  
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VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR  
KARI TURUNEN, CONDUCTOR

PATH OF MIRACLES

**Path of Miracles (2005)**

Joby Talbot  
(b. 1971)

- I. Roncesvalles
- II. Burgos
- III. Leon
- IV. Santiago

PROGRAM NOTES,  
TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

PATH OF MIRACLES

Joby Talbot's *Path of Miracles* was composed for and premiered by the Tenebrae Choir of London in 2005. The work is a highly ambitious, unique, symphonic, hour-long choral work scored for 17 unaccompanied voices.

The text of the work is comprised from two sources: a libretto by the English poet Robert Dickinson and a host of medieval texts in multiple languages about the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela and about St. James, Jesus' disciple, patron saint of Spain, whose remains are said to be held at the Cathedral in Santiago.

The music of *Path of Miracles* is extremely difficult to compress into a short characterization. It covers a wide range of styles and techniques: from striking *glissandi* to lengthy repeated passages depicting the arduous, long treks; from dissonant textures to passages of great beauty; and from music almost standing still to energetic, repeated rhythmic patterns. The textures are at times extremely high and at times extremely low and solo voices appear and disappear constantly from the texture. *Path of Miracles* is a musical adventure that pays respect to the *camino* and its history without sugar-coating the ardour of the experience in any way.

*Path of Miracles* is divided into four movements, each between 12 and 20 minutes in length. The names of the movements come from important stations along the *camino*, each concentrating on one central experience during the pilgrimage.

Please turn off all phones.  
Recording devices of any kind  
are strictly prohibited.

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The Vancouver Chamber Choir  
appreciates your continued support  
of our performances.

## I. Roncevalles

The work opens with a striking gesture: *glissandi* rising slowly from the depths. After the dramatic opening exhortations, an alto soloist leads the procession and the music changes into a repeated figure that Talbot uses as a symbol of the endless walk - the 'walk motif'. This is followed by an intense passage where the text concentrates on how St. James' remains found their way to Galicia, Spain. The momentum ceases suddenly and makes room for a low chanting bass solo. After a brief return to the walk motif, the movement ends with material reminiscent of the beginning of the movement.

Herr Santiagu  
Grot Sanctiagu  
Eultreya esuseya  
Deius aia nos

Holy St. James  
Great St. James  
Now and evermore  
God help us

Κατ εκείνον δε τον καιρόν επέβαλεν Ηρώδης ο βασιλεύς τας χείρας , κακώσαι τινας των από της εκκλησίας. Ανείλε δε Ιάκωβον , τον αδελφόν Ιωάννου μαχαίρα.

Eodem autore tempore misit Herodes rex manus ut adfligeret. Quosdam de ecclesia occidit autem Iacobum fratrem Iohannis gladio.

En aquel mismo tiempo el rey Herodes echó mano a algunos de la iglesia para maltratarles. Y mató a espada a Jacobo, hermano de Juan.

Aldi hartan, Herodes erregea eliz elkarteko batzuei gogor erasotzen hasi zen. Santiago, Joanen anaia, ezpataz hilarazi zuen.

Ver ce temps-là, le roi Hérode se mit à persécuter quelques-un de membres de l'Église. Il fit mourir par l'épée Jacques, frère de Jean.

Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James, the brother of John with the sword.

Um dieselbige Zeit legte der König Herodes die Hände an, etliche von der Gemeinde, sie zu peinigen. Er tötete aber Jakobus, den Bruder des Johannes, mit dem Schwert.

Before this death the Apostle journeyed,  
preaching the word to unbelievers.  
Returning, unheeded,  
to die in Jerusalem –  
a truth beyond Gospel.

Jacobus, filius Zebedaei, frate Iohannis,  
Hic Spaniae et occidentalia loca praedicat,

foy el o primeiro que preegou en Galizia

Herod rots on a borrowed throne,  
while the saint is translated to Heaven and Spain,  
the body taken at night from the tomb,

the stone of the tomb becoming the boat  
that carries him back *ad extremis terrarum*,  
back to the land that denied him in life.

Huius beatissimi apostoli sacra ossa ad Hispanias translata

Et despois que o rrey Erodes mādou matar en Iherusalem,  
trouxerō o corpo del os diçipolos por mar a Galiza

From Jerusalem to Finisterre,  
from the heart of the world  
to the end of the land in a boat made of stone,  
without rudder or sail.

Guided by grace to the Galician shore.

abandonnant à la Providence la soin de la sepulture

O ajutor omnium seculorum,  
O decus apostollorum,  
O lus clara galicianorum,

James, son of Zebedee, brother of John,  
at that time preached in Spain and the western places.

He was the first to preach in Galicia

The sacred bones of the blessed apostle taken to Spain

After King Herod killed him in Jerusalem, his disciples took  
the body by sea to Galicia

abandoning to Providence the care of the tomb

O judge of all the world,  
O glory of the apostles,  
O clear light of Galicia,

O avocate peregrinorum,  
Jacobe, suplantatur viciorum  
Solve nostrum, Cathenes delitorum  
E duc a salutum portum

At night on Lebredon  
by Iria Flavia  
the hermit Pelayo  
at prayer and alone

saw in the heavens  
a ring of bright stars  
shining like beacons  
over the plain

and as in Bethlehem  
the Magi were guided  
the hermit was led  
by this holy sign

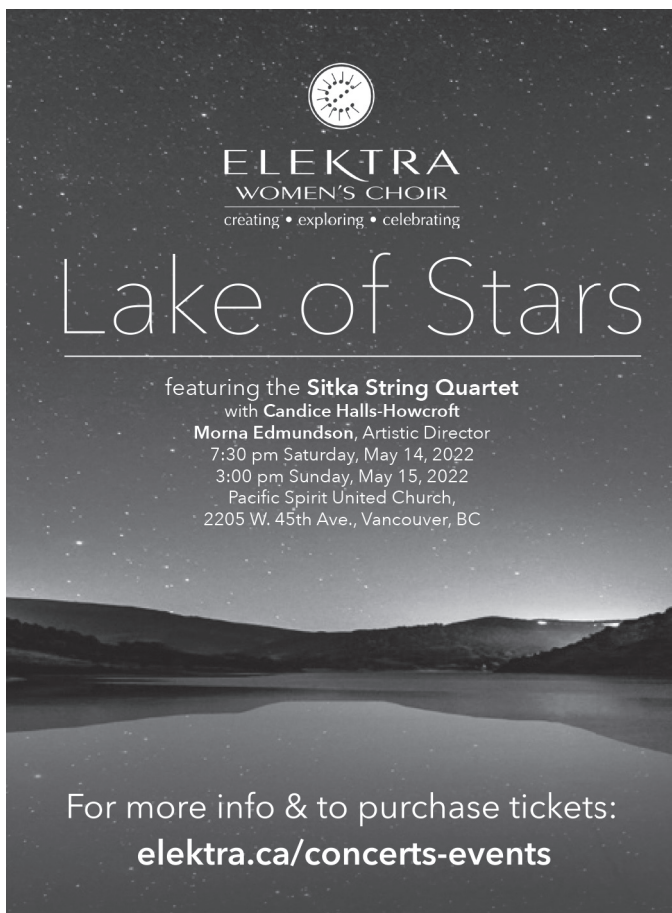
for this was the time  
given to Spain  
for St. James to be found  
after eight hundred years

in Compostella, by the field of stars.

Herr Santiagu  
Grot Sanctiagu  
Eultreya esuseya  
Deius aia nos

O defender of pilgrims,  
James, destroyer of sins,  
deliver us from evil  
and lead us to safe harbour

Holy St. James  
Great St. James  
Now and evermore  
God help us



The poster features a dark, starry night sky over a calm lake reflecting the stars. The text is white and centered. At the top is a circular logo with a sunburst design. Below it, the text reads: ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR, creating • exploring • celebrating. The main title 'Lake of Stars' is in a large, elegant serif font. Below the title, it says 'featuring the Sitka String Quartet with Candice Halls-Howcroft'. Further down, it lists 'Morna Edmundson, Artistic Director' and the performance dates and times: '7:30 pm Saturday, May 14, 2022' and '3:00 pm Sunday, May 15, 2022'. The location is 'Pacific Spirit United Church, 2205 W. 45th Ave., Vancouver, BC'. At the bottom, it says 'For more info & to purchase tickets: [elektra.ca/concerts-events](http://elektra.ca/concerts-events)'.

ELEKTRA  
WOMEN'S CHOIR  
creating • exploring • celebrating

# Lake of Stars

featuring the **Sitka String Quartet**  
with Candice Halls-Howcroft  
**Morna Edmundson**, Artistic Director  
7:30 pm Saturday, May 14, 2022  
3:00 pm Sunday, May 15, 2022  
Pacific Spirit United Church,  
2205 W. 45th Ave., Vancouver, BC

For more info & to purchase tickets:  
[elektra.ca/concerts-events](http://elektra.ca/concerts-events)



The poster has a background of light-colored flowers. The year '2022' is in a large, white, sans-serif font in the top left. The word 'Serenaid' is written in a large, white, cursive script across the middle. Below it, in a white sans-serif font, is 'VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION' and 'May 13-27, 2022'. At the bottom, a black rectangular box contains the website '32auctions.com/serenaid2022' in white. In the bottom right corner is a logo for the Vancouver Chamber Choir, which consists of a stylized rainbow arch over the words 'VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR'.

2022

# Serenaid

VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION  
May 13-27, 2022

[32auctions.com/serenaid2022](http://32auctions.com/serenaid2022)

VANCOUVER  
CHAMBER  
CHOIR



## II. Burgos

The second movement concentrates on the hardships felt by the pilgrims as the stark reality of the seemingly endlessness of the trek sets in. The first section of the movement consists of a dissonant and stark passage that alternates with consonant block chords. The second section uses the same melodic material as the beginning, but it is now set upon an incessant and ever-growing ostinato ("Santiago Peregrino"). The growth culminates in a rhythmic recitation ("Sometimes the devil"). After a return to the soft, broad chords of the beginning of the movement, a transition takes us to the dissonant texture of the beginning. The movement closes with a sustained choir of static bass voices.

Innkeepers cheat us, the English steal,  
The devil waits at the side of the road.  
We trust in words and remnants, prayers and bones.

We know that the world is a lesson  
As the carved apostles in the Puerta Alta  
Dividing the damned and the saved are a lesson.  
We beat our hands against the walls of heaven.

St. Julian of Cuenca,  
Santa Casilda, pray for us.

Remember the pilgrim robbed in Pamplona,  
Cheated of silver the night his wife died;  
Remember the son of the German pilgrim  
Hanged as a thief at the gates of the town,  
Hanged at the word of an innkeeper's daughter.

Innkeepers cheat us, the English steal,  
The devil waits at the side of the road.  
We trust in words and remnants, prayers and bones.

*Santiago Peregrino:*

His arm is in England, his jaw in Italy  
And yet he works wonders.  
The widower, the boy on the gallows –  
He did not fail them.  
One given a horse on the road by a stranger,  
One kept alive for twenty-six days,  
Unhurt on a gallows for twenty-six days.

His jaw is in Italy, yet he speaks.

The widower robbed in Pamplona:  
Told by the Saint how the thief  
Fell from the roof of a house to his death.

His arm is in England, yet the boy,  
The pilgrim's son they hanged in Toulouse  
Was borne on the gallows for twenty-six days  
And called to his father: Do not mourn,  
For all this time the Saint has been with me.  
*O beate Jacobe.*

Innkeepers cheat us, the English steal.  
We are sick of body, worthy of hell.

The apostles in the Puerta Alta  
Have seen a thousand wonders;  
The stone floor is worn with tears,  
With ecstasies and lamentations.  
We beat our hands against the walls of heaven.

*Santiago Peregrino:*

The devil waits in a turn in the wind  
In a closing door in an empty room.  
A voice at night, a waking dream.

Traveller, be wary of strangers,  
Sometimes the Saint takes the form of a pilgrim,  
Sometimes the devil the form of a saint.

Pray to the Saints and the Virgen del Camino,  
To save you as she saved the man from Lyon  
Who was tricked on the road by the deceiver,  
Tricked by the devil in the form of St. James  
And who killed himself from fear of hell;

The devil cried out and claimed his soul.  
Weeping, his companions prayed.  
Saint and Virgin heard the prayer  
And turned his wound into a scar,  
From mercy they gave the dead man life.

Innkeepers cheat us, the English steal,  
We are sick of body, worthy of hell.  
We beat our hands against the walls of heaven  
And are not heard.

We pray for miracles and are given stories;  
Bread, and are given stones.  
We write our sins on parchment  
To cast upon his shrine  
In hope they will burn.

We pray to St. Julian of Cuenca,  
To St. Amaro the Pilgrim,  
To Santa Casilda,  
To San Millan and the Virgin of the Road.  
We pray to Santiago.

We know that the world is a lesson  
As the carved apostles in the Puerta Alta  
Dividing the damned and the saved are a lesson.  
We pray the watching saints will help us learn.

Ora pro nobis, Jacobe,	Pray for us, James,
a finibus terrae ad	From the end of the earth
te clamavi.	I cry to you.

### III. Leon

The mood changes radically after the sombre second movement. The pilgrimage, depicted by long notes in the tenor and bass voices, now seems protected by the repeated figures of the angelic high voices. After a short passage that introduces a hymn-like texture in the tenors and basses, the angelic figure returns, and these two elements take us almost to the end of the movement. A passage with falling lines draws us to a calm, beautiful closing chordal section.

Li soleus qui en moi luist est mes deduis,  
Et Dieus est mon conduis

The sun that shines within me is my joy,  
and God is my guide

We have walked  
In Jakobsland:

Over river and sheep track,  
By hospice and hermit's cave.

We sleep on the earth and dream of the road,  
We wake to the road and we walk.

Wind from the hills  
Dry as the road,

Sun overhead,  
Too bright for the eye.

Li soleus qui en moi luist est mes deduis,  
et Dieus est mon conduis

The sun that shines within me is my joy,  
and God is my guide

Rumours of grace on the road,  
Of wonders:

The miracles of Villasirga,  
The Virgin in the apple tree.

The Apostle on horseback –  
A journey of days in one night.  
God knows we have walked  
In Jakobsland:

Through the Gothic Fields,  
From Castrogeriz to Calzadilla,

Calzadilla to Sahagun,  
Each day the same road, the same sun.

Quam dilecta tabernacula tua,  
Dominum virtutem

How admirable are thy tabernacles,  
O Lord of Hosts

Here is a miracle.  
That we are here is a miracle.

Here daylight gives an image of  
The heaven promised by His love.

Beate, qui habitant in domo tua, Domine;  
in saecula saeculorum laudabant te.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house  
They will still be praising be

We pause, as at the heart of a sun  
That dazzles and does not burn.

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## IV. Santiago

The walk motif reappears but is soon softened into only a hint of energy while calm, transparent textures extol the beauty of the landscape. This is followed by a gentle and touching description of the final moments before the descent to Santiago. The initial exhortation reappears in a calm form before the music starts to gather momentum, almost as if the pilgrims were dancing their way to Santiago. After a broad recapitulation of the exhortation heard at the very beginning of the work, the basses offer a last prayer under the undulating voices of the altos and soft halo of the sopranos before we move to the ending gestures. The work ends with the pilgrims each going their own way to close this magnificent work in a powerfully evocative way.

The road climbs through changing land.  
Northern rains fall  
On the deepening green of the slopes of the valley,  
Storms break the summer's heat;  
At Foncebadon a pass can be lost,  
In one night, to the snow.

The road climbs for days through the highlands of Bierzo,  
to the grassland and rocks of the Valcarce valley.  
White broom and scrub-oak,  
Laburnum and gorse  
Mark the bare hills  
Beside the road.

At O Cebreiro, mountains.  
The road follows the ridgetop  
By meadows of fern, by fields of rye.

By Fonfria del Camino, by Triacastela.  
Towns are shadows  
The road leaves behind.  
It moves over the slate hills  
Palas do Rei. Potomarin.  
The names are shadows.

Then, from the stream at Lavacolla  
To the foot of Monte de Gozo,  
A morning;  
From the foot of Monte de Gozo  
To the summit of Monte de Gozo  
The road climbs,  
Before the longed-for final descent  
To Santiago.

Herr Santiago  
Grot Sanctiagu  
Eultreya esuseya  
Deius aia nos

Ver redit optatum  
cum gaudio,  
flore decoratum  
purpureo;  
aves edunt cantus  
quam dulciter,  
cantus est amoenus  
totaliter.

Holy St. James  
Great St. James  
Now and evermore  
God help us

Longed-for spring returns,  
with joy,  
adorned with shining  
flowers;  
The birds sing so sweetly,  
woods burst into leaf,  
there is pleasant song  
on every side.



Jacobo dat parium  
omnis mundus gratis  
ob cuius remedium  
miles pietatis  
cunctorum presidium  
est ad vota satis.

O beate Jacobe  
virtus nostra vere  
nobis hostes remove  
tuos ac tuere  
ac devotos adibe  
nos tibi placer.

Jacobo propicio  
veniam speramus  
et quas ex obsequio  
merito debemus  
patri tam eximio  
dignes laudes demus.

At the Western edge of the world  
We pray for our sins to fall from us  
As chains from the limbs of penitents.

We have walked out of the lives we had  
And will return to nothing, if we live,  
Changed by the journey, face and soul alike.

We have walked out of our lives  
To come to where the walls of heaven  
Are thin as a curtain, transparent as glass,

Where the Apostle spoke the holy words,  
Where in death he returned, where God is close,  
Where saints and martyrs mark the road.

Santiago, *primus ex apostolis*,  
Defender of pilgrims, warrior for truth,  
Take from our backs the burdens of this life,

What we have done, who we have been;  
Take them as fire takes the cloth  
They cast into the sea at Finisterre.

Holy St James, great St. James,  
God help us now and evermore.

The whole world  
freely gives thanks to James;  
through his sacrifice,  
he, the warrior of godliness,  
is a great defence  
to all through their prayers.

O blessed James  
truly our strength,  
take our enemies from us  
and protect your people,  
and cause us, your faithful servants,  
to please you.

James, let us hope  
for pardon through your favour,  
and let us give  
this worthy praise,  
which we rightfully owe  
to so excellent a father.

#### Robert Dickinson

with extracts from the following sources:

Breviarium apostolorum, 8<sup>th</sup> c.

Miragres de Santiago, 15<sup>th</sup> c. (Gallegan)

Floro, 8<sup>th</sup> c.

Legenda (French)

Psalm 61

Anonymous, 13<sup>th</sup> c.

Psalm 84

Carmina Burana

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- ❖ **A World Christmas** Carols and seasonal songs of many lands from guitarist and arranger Ed Henderson, the Worldfest Ensemble and the Vancouver Chamber Choir with Jon Washburn conducting.
- ❖ **The Miracle of Christmas** Christmas music with a colourful Central and South American flavour played by the ensemble Ancient Cultures with several tracks featuring the Vancouver Chamber Choir.

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The Vancouver Chamber Choir acknowledges the sustained generosity of those who have supported the Choir for five or more continuous years. Their names have been marked with an asterisk (\*).

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**Tony Claydon** | Colin Miles & Winifred Nowell

**Maurice D. Copithorne, QC, LLD** | FredFred & Eva Bild | Joost Blom | Jane Ciacci | The Copithorne Family | Sylvia Crooks | Earl & Monica Drake | Janis Hamilton | Stephen Heeny | David Hilton | Izumo-Canada Friendship Society | Linda Johnston | Raymond Kam | Wendy Klein | Cynthia Mak | Chris McGill | Donald McRae | Nozomi Nakamura | Christine Nicolas | R. Lindsay Perceval | Pat Rekert | Theresa Wright

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**In memory of Bob** | Jean Pamplin

**Fern Seaboyer** | Karen Seaboyer\*

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A friend in San Mateo, CA – in honour of Brent Hunter

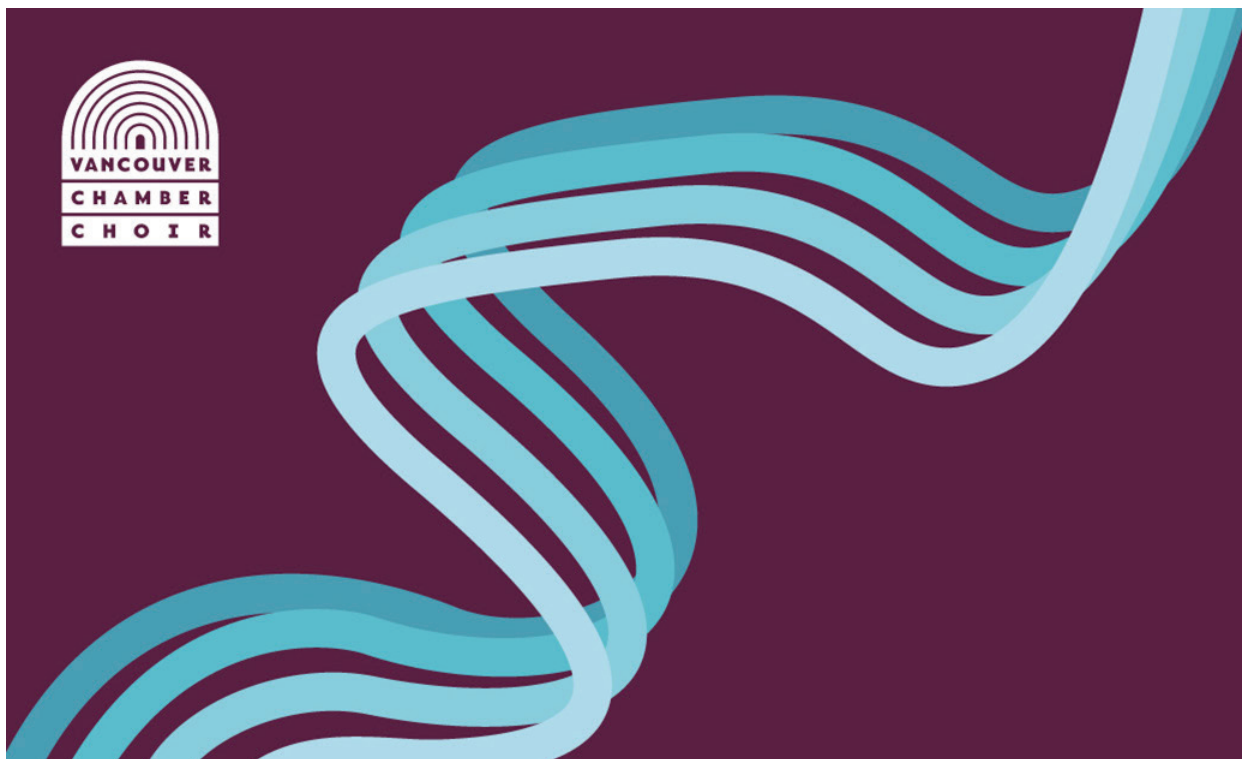
Drs. Robin & Margaret Cottle – in honour of Dr. John Trotter

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2021 / 22 SEASON

7:30PM FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2022  
PACIFIC SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH  
corner of 45th & Yew, Vancouver

[vancouverchamberchoir.com/nordic](http://vancouverchamberchoir.com/nordic)



明月



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2021 / 22 SEASON

7:30PM FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2022  
FRASERVUE CHURCH  
11295 Mellis Drive, Richmond

[vancouverchamberchoir.com/bright](http://vancouverchamberchoir.com/bright)