

Pro Coro Canada acknowledges that we gather on Treaty 6 territory, the traditional gathering place of many indigenous nations whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our community.

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### Program: December 28, 2020

#### Adam Robertson & Jessica Robertson

Marry Me, a Little, from Company

Stephen Sondheim

I See the Light, from Tangled

Alan Menken Glenn Slater

Someone to Watch Over Me

George Gershwin Ira Gershwin

A Whole New World, from Aladdin

Alan Menken Tim Rice

This Nearly Was Mine, from South Pacific

Richard Rogers Oscar Hammerstein II

All I Ask of You, from *The Phantom of the Opera*  Andrew Lloyd Webber Charles Hart Richard Stilgoe

Love Is An Open Door, from Frozen

Kristen Anderson-Lopez Robert Lopez

**New Pair of Eyes** 

Sarah Slean

Being Alive, from Company

Stephen Sondehim

## Program: December 29, 2020

Dawn Bailey, voice Josephine van Lier, viola da gamba

L'Eraclito amoroso Barbara Strozzi

(1619-1677)

Folle Ben Che si crede Tarquinio Merula

(1595-1665)

Accenti queruli Giovanni Felice Sances

(1600-1679)

Dolce Maria Francesca Caccini

(1587-1640)

Canzonetta sopra alla nanna Tarquinio Merula

(1595-1665)

Sentirete una canzonetta Tarquinio Merula

## Program: December 30, 2020

### Caleb Nelson, voice & guitar

Somewhere over the Rainbow Harold Arlen
Yip Harburg

Send in the Clowns Stephen Sondheim

You've Got a Friend James Taylor

Mad World Tears for Fears

Sugar Maroon 5

Mercy Street Peter Gabriel

The Water is Wide Traditional

I See Fire Ed Sheeran

### Program: December 31, 2020

Kimberley Denis, voice Brendan Lord, piano

Moondance Van Morrison

I Want Them Baldi Marcy Heisler
Zina Goldrich

What Are You Doing New Year's Eve? Frank Loesser

Stars and the Moon Jason Robert Brown

Bridge Over Troubled Water Paul Simon
Art Garfunkel

Light of a Clear Blue Morning Dolly Parton

Surabaya Santa Jason Robert Brown

Both Sides Now Joni Mitchell

Nothin' New for New Year Harry Connick Jr.

Auld Lang Syne with This Will Be Our Year Rod Argent
Chris White

### Pro Coro Canada

Founded in 1981 by Canadian Michel Marc Gervais, Pro Coro Canada has performed at the Toronto International Choral Festival (1994 and 2002), the 1988 Olympic Arts Festival, and Canadian Voices (2003 landmark series of concerts celebrating 50 years of professional choral singing in Canada and R. Murray Schafer's 70th year). The choir has commissioned dozens of new works, the majority by Canadian composers. Pro Coro Canada produced the second Edmonton International Choral Festival from May 30th to June 2nd, 2019

The twenty-four voices of Pro Coro Canada have been shaped by some of the finest choral conductors in the world, including Gervais, Anders Eby (Sweden), Søren Hansen (Denmark), Agnes Grossmann (Austria), and Richard Sparks (USA). Guest conductors have included Frieder Bernius, Eric Ericson, Gary Graden, Maria Guinand, Bo Holten, Elmer Iseler, Tönu Kaljuste, Diane Loomer, Leonard Ratzlaff, Ward Swingle, Ivars Taurins, Jon Washburn, and Erik Westberg. In early 2012 Michael Zaugg was announced as Pro Coro's new Artistic Director and Principal Conductor.

Under the direction of Swiss-born Michael Zaugg, the choir is widely recognized as one of this country's finest. The choir is particularly proud of its composer-in-residence program with internationally renowned composer Alberto Grau; its appointment as Faculty in the Choral Art program at the Banff Centre; and critically acclaimed tours of four provinces. Pro Coro Canada believes strongly in community partnerships and over the past few years has collaborated with many community choirs as well as mentoring young choral artists through their Emerging Artist Program.



### **Our Conductor**

#### Michael Zaugg, Artistic Director & **Principal Conductor**

Swiss-native Michael Zaugg has distinguished himself as an innovative and versatile conductor. pedagogue and clinician. Currently in his 7th season as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the professional chamber choir Pro Coro Canada in Edmonton, Michael also previously led other notable Canadian choirs including, in Montreal, the St. Lawrence Choir (2008-2013) and voces boreales (2006-2015), and the Cantata Singers Ottawa (2005-2014).

As Chorus Master of the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal (2006-2011), Michael successfully prepared groups of up to 1500 singers for OSM Artistic Director Kent Nagano. including the award-winning production Saint François d'Assise by Messiaen. Michael also prepared the Cantata Singers Ottawa for their appearances with the National Arts Centre Orchestra under conductors such as Franz- Paul Decker, Trevor Pinnock, and Helmuth Rilling.

Active as a Guest Conductor, Michael Zaugg has worked with notable groups including the Vancouver Chamber Choir, National Youth Choir of Canada, the BBC Singers, Vancouver's musica intima, Thirteen Strings, as well as the Longueuil Symphony Orchestra. Michael's US debut was with the Grammynominated Choir of Trinity Wall Street in New York. Over the last three years,



he has led a 60-voice male choir, with singers selected from across Canada, the US and the Ukraine, to perform the Resurrection Liturgy by Fr. John Sembrat (Alberta) in tours across the Prairies and to Toronto, Philadelphia, Rochester and New York City.

Originally an accomplished tenor, Michael became the first Swiss conductor to be accepted to the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm, Sweden in its prestigious postgraduate program for Professional Choir Conducting. Mr. Zaugg also holds degrees in voice and music education from the University in Basel. In 2018 he was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Music (Hon DMus) by Scotland's King's College, University of Aberdeen.

Michael Zaugg is strongly committed to his work not only with choirs but also with emerging artists, and is the Program Director of CHORAL ART at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. His work with and support of emerging Canadian composers is presented through Pro Coro Canada's Choral Series, distributed by the Leading Note in Ottawa.

# **Our Composer-in-Residence**

#### Alberto Grau

Alberto Grau is a renowned composer, conductor, pedagogue from Venezuela, born in Cataluña. He is the founder of professional choral studies in Venezuela.

The Schola Cantorum de Caracas (now de Venezuela), internationally known Venezuelan choir was founded by Grau in 1967 (in 2017 it celebrated its 50th anniversary). He led this famous group to win the Guido D'Arezzo Choral Competition in 1974. He also founded the Movimiento Coral Cantemos, another institution that has participated in the choral movement of Venezuela.

Grau has been Vice President of the International Federation of Choral Music (1982-1996) where he promoted the International Singing Day (World Choral Day), celebrated every year worldwide.

In the choral field, he has composed for mixed choirs and equal voices (female, male and children). His choral works have been premiered by different choirs from diverse continents and published by GGM Ediciones (Venezuela), Earthsongs (USA), À Coeur Joie (France) and Neil A. Kjos Music Co. (USA).



He has been awarded several national and international prizes such as:

- Jose Angel Montero National Music Prize in three categories: *Triptico* (songs for mezzo soprano and piano, 1983 for *Dies Irae*, and 1987 *Pater Noster*, both for mixed choir.
- First Prize, International Choral Singing Day, 1978 (Barcelona, Spain), for La Doncella, ballet for mixed choir, narrator and orchestra.
- Fama prize in the Arts, for his Five Songs for Children, based on the popular poetry "El San Pedro".
- Choral Expression and Composition Prize (sixth edition, 1998), Gran Canarias Government (Spain), for his Operetta Ecológica in four acts.

In July, 2017 his most recent composition for childrens choir and orchestra was premiered at New York's Carnegie Hall.

# **Our Honourary Patron**



Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell

The Right Honourable Kim Campbell PC CC OBC QC, currently the founding principal of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College at the University of Alberta, has led an exemplary public life, having served as a School Board Trustee and Chair, an MLA for Vancouver-Point Grey and as MP for Vancouver Centre.

While considering the appointment as Honorary Patron, Ms. Campbell reflected on her love of the arts in general and choral music specifically. She spoke of being a singer and chorister while studying at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Ms. Campbell said, "Among my memorable experiences at the LSE was learning to sing the choral music of Britten, Bach, Mozart, Orff and others. Rather than being a distraction from my studies in Soviet Government, my involvement with the choir (as president of the Music Society, no less) enriched my thinking and well-being in the company of other like-minded scholars. I am very happy to support the work of Pro Coro Canada, which represents the highest level of this beautiful art form."

### Sarah Chan **Honourary Director**

Sarah Chan MA is a teacher, musician, writerly-type, and mother of Dexter and Alice. She runs a full time private piano studio, and publishes the blog Girls and Bicycles. Her current volunteer focus is on the United Way's youth initiative. Sarah also spends her time with: Big Brothers, Big Sisters; friend of Norquest College; co-chair for The Works Festival Gala; honorary chair for YESS; an



advocate for the Edmonton Public Library; Member of the Mentor team at Peter Lougheed Leadership College (UofA); and a board member of Apricity, a notfor-profit that is working with Boyle Street's HERpregnancyprogram.

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Pro Coro Canada is a proud member of the following organizations:







Canada Choral Association des communautés chorales canadiennes

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## 2020 Ticket Donors

Pro Coro Canada would like to graciously thank our patrons who donated the face value of their tickets after the cancellation of the remainder of our 2019-2020 subscription season. Your support ensures Edmonton's voice will live on in these uncertain times.

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