

Contemporary Canadian Choral Music: Truth & Reconciliation in Action and Highlights of Current Composition

Lecture by Dr. Timothy Shantz, DMus, MMus, BMus, ARCT



Dr. Timothy Shantz is a conductor, collaborator, tenor soloist, teacher and life-long dreamer. He is the Founder and Artistic Director of Calgary's professional choir, Luminous Voices, Artistic Director of the Richard Eaton Singers and the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Alberta's Department of Music. The Calgary Philharmonic Chorus and Spiritus Chamber Choir flourished during his tenure. Kenneth DeLong of the Calgary Herald wrote, "*It is hard to believe that it has been a full decade since Timothy Shantz became the chorus master of the CPO Chorus. During this decade, Shantz, always energetic and full of initiative, has transformed the choral life of the city.*" As a conductor, Tim is recognized for the breadth of his work, from

early music to contemporary works, including virtuoso unaccompanied choral music and large choral-orchestral masterpieces. In 2021, he was honoured to receive the Richard S. Eaton Award of Distinction from Choir Alberta in recognition of exemplary service to choral music in the province of Alberta.

Tim Shantz has recorded extensively with Luminous Voices & Spiritus Chamber Choir. Recordings include *Fire-Flowers (2024)* by Zachary Wadsworth, Andrew Balfour's *Ispiciwin (2023)* (nominated for a JUNO in 2025) and *Artem Vedel: Twelve Sacred Choral Concerti & Divine Liturgy St. John Chrysostom (2021)* featuring works by one of Ukraine's finest 18th Century composers. *Sea Dreams (2020)*, music of Peter-Anthony Togni, was nominated for a 2021 JUNO Award. Previous recordings include Zachary Wadsworth's *The Far West (2016)*, of which Joshua Kosman of the San Francisco Chronicle wrote "*beautifully sung, as everything here is, by the aptly named Luminous Voices,*" and *Mendelssohn's Te Deum (2015)* with Luminous Voices, as well as James MacMillan's *Seven Last Words (2014)*, *All the Stars Looked Down (2012)* and *of Stars and Solitude (2010)* with Spiritus Chamber Choir.

Tim holds a Doctor of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music (DMus 2009) with a dissertation that included interviews with composer Sir James MacMillan and a conductor's analysis of his unaccompanied choral work *Sun-Dogs*. He is also a graduate of the University of Alberta's Choral Conducting program (M.Mus 1999) and earned a degree in piano performance from Wilfrid Laurier University (Hon. B.Mus 1995).

Dr. Shantz's lecture will be followed by a reading session of Canadian choral repertoire, led by select members of our tour group. Biographies of all tour participants are included on the following pages.



Laura Adlers is an arts and non-profit leader and producer based in Guelph, Ontario, who has successfully directed organizations and projects in the cultural and public sectors for more than 25 years. Through her consulting business, The Adlers Agency, she collaborates with and leads cultural and non-profit organizations on interim management, operational assessment and strategic planning, fundraising and development, artistic administration, special event and tour production, and cross-cultural projects.

A life-long choral singer herself, she is internationally recognized as an award-winning administrator of community and professional choirs, particularly in Canada and Latvia. Current and past clients include Luminous Voices (Timothy Shantz, Calgary), The Elora Singers and Elora Festival (Mark Vuorinen, Elora), the State Choir LATVIJA (Māris Sirmāis, Riga), Pax Christi Chorale (Stephanie Martin, Toronto), Orpheus Choir of Toronto (Robert Cooper, Toronto), Amadeus Choir of Greater Toronto (Lydia Adams, Toronto), and the Latvian Youth Choir BALSIS (Ints Teterovskis, Riga). Laura has been instrumental in raising the profiles of amateur and professional Latvian choirs on the world stage, producing nine international tours for BALSIS from 2009-2014, co-producing Ēriks Ešņvalds' *Nordic Light Tour* in Ontario with Robert Cooper and the Orpheus Choir of Toronto, and producing the State Choir LATVIJA's debut Canadian tour in 2019.

Laura completed a Master of Management in International Arts Management (MMIAM) in 2015, presented jointly by HEC Montréal and Southern Methodist University (Dallas). She currently serves on the Chorus America Board of Directors (Washington, DC). In 2020, Laura was appointed an Officer of the Cross of Recognition by the Republic of Latvia for her achievements in promoting Latvian culture and artists internationally. She is also a published Latvian-English literary translator and recently translated her first novel. www.lauraadlers.com



Raised in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, **Thomas Burton** is Artistic Director of the Orpheus Choir of Toronto, Conductor of the Tenor/Bass Chorus at the University of Toronto, and Artistic Director of Durham Region's RESOUND Choir. Praised for his innovative and eclectic programming as well as his dynamic presence on the podium, Thomas is in demand nationally as a guest conductor, clinician and educator.

Thomas is passionate about inspiring excellence in performers of all ages and abilities and has conducted young children and students, as well as professional choruses and orchestras. He regularly commissions new Canadian music while conducting the Canadian premieres of new works. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Trombone Performance from McGill University and a Master's degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Michigan where he studied with Dr. Jerry Blackstone and Dr. Eugene Rogers.



Graeme Climie, Calgary-based singer and arts administrator, is a choral specialist comfortable in various stylistic and working environments. He has performed with Canadian professional choirs such as Luminous Voices, Pro Coro Canada, the Elora Festival Singers, the Calgary Philharmonic Chorus, Calgary Opera, Spiritus Chamber Choir, VoiceScapes Calgary, Early Music Voices, Axios Men's Ensemble, the Vermont Chamber Singers, and is a co-founder of the Vocal Renegades Collective. Graeme sang in the National Youth Choir of Canada from 2017-2022 and is currently the Bass Section Leader of the World Youth Choir.

Professionally, Graeme serves as the Assistant Director and Business Manager of Cantaré Children's Choir, an organization he has been involved with for over 20 years. He obtained his Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Calgary's Haskayne School of Business in 2019, specializing in marketing and not-for-profit management. Combining his business acumen with a passion for videography and recording, Graeme works as a freelance marketing agent for various arts organizations across his home province of Alberta.



Janet Correia is a multifaceted musician based in Oakville, Ontario, where she is active as a classical piano instructor, soprano choral singer, collaborative pianist and composer. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education (specializing in piano, choral conducting, and composition) and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Toronto. Additionally, she earned a Licentiate Diploma in Piano Performance from Trinity College, England, as well as both Performance and Teachers' A.R.C.T. diplomas and the Artist-Teacher Diploma from the Glenn Gould Professional School in Toronto. Her love for Canadian folk songs has inspired numerous choral arrangements.

With years of experience teaching K-6 elementary music, Janet now serves as the Collaborative Pianist for the Oakville Choir for Children and Youth (where she was past Associate Music Director) and is the Music Director at St. Luke's Anglican Church in Oakville. Beyond her musical endeavors, she enjoys acrylic painting and gardening.



A composer whose works are performed across North America, Europe and in Asia, **Stephanie Martin** has mentored musicians, composers, musicologists and organists as professor at York University, Toronto. Her compositions range from opera, oratorio and cantatas for choir and orchestra, to intimate a cappella liturgical motets, masses and anthems. In the upcoming 2025-26 season, Stephanie will serve as composer-in-residence to the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir. Visit her website to view a complete catalogue of works, and to keep in touch:

<https://stephaniemartinmusic.com/>



Dr. John Wiebe is an award-winning conductor, pianist, educator, adjudicator and clinician based in Edmonton, Alberta, where he is the Director of Music and Choral Activities at the University of Alberta-Augustana campus, and for 21 years was the Artistic & Executive Director of the Edmonton Youth & Children's Choirs. John has studied at Wilfrid Laurier University, the University of Alberta, with Frieder Bernius from Stuttgart, Germany, and in Vienna, Austria. Choirs under his dynamic leadership have recorded seven CD's, performed coast-to-coast across Canada and around the world (Europe, Russia, South America and China), and have received awards for their performances locally, nationally and at the Langollen Music Festival and the World Choir Games. John is a regular clinician and adjudicator across the country, is a

member of the Choir Alberta Board, a Past-President of Choral Canada and likes to keep in shape for his music schedule by travelling with his family and running.