



**The
Festival
Chorus**

1958 - 2023

Artistic Director

Paul Grindlay

Accompanist

Oksana Yaremchuk



THE
FESTIVAL
CHORUS

2023-2024 SEASON

www.THEFESTIVALCHORUS.com



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Hello Friends of the Festival Chorus!

It is my great pleasure to continue the rich legacy of this ensemble. I first met Mel and the Festival Chorus in 2000 as a soloist in the *Monteverdi Vespers*. I was immediately impressed with the level of preparation, esprit de corps, and Mel's leadership. I certainly never imagined then that I would become Artistic Director, and I do so now, on the 65th Anniversary, with an exciting mix of hope and humility.

I believe music has the power to bring us together into meaningful, caring, inclusive communities, and we would love for you to join our community. In return, I promise to do my best to draw upon the wisdom from 40 years of enriching musical experiences to craft the kind of performances you desire and deserve.

All of the music for our holiday concert - *Winter Nights* - was composed or arranged by amazing Canadian women! In our March concert - *For the Love of Earth* - we will partner with the Calgary Boys' Choir to discover hope and optimism in the face of the climate crisis. We will finish in May with the timelessly elegant and sumptuous music of Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*.



**From all of us to each of you,
Paul Grindlay**



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November 2023

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Please include your full name, address, phone
number, and concert choices with amount of tickets
(reg, senior, and/or student) for each concert.





WINTER NIGHTS

Featuring Canadian
Women Composers

Saturday, December 9, 2023 | 8:00pm
Knox United Church
506 - 4 Street SW, Calgary

This seasonal program of music composed or arranged by Canadian women is both traditional and innovative, featuring the Calgary premiere of Stephanie Martin's *Winter Nights* cantata for choir, tenor soloist, organ, piano, strings and percussion. We'll also explore a nautical angle in Diane Loomer's arrangements of *Frobisher Bay* (transported to the Arctic, as homesick whalers wait for the ice to melt), *Ave Maris Stella* and *I Saw Three Ships*.

"I recognize Stephanie Martin and the late Diane Loomer as Canadian choral luminaries, friends, and mentors."

- Paul Grindlay, Artistic Director





For The Love of EARTH

With Guests

1 9 7 3 - 2 0 2 3



**THE CALGARY
BOYS' CHOIR**

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Saturday March 2, 2024 | 7:00pm
Rozsa Centre, University of Calgary
206 University Court NW, Calgary

Mother Earth is our beautiful and bountiful home planet. We are learning that when we take more than we give, we harm the Earth, others and ourselves. There is still time to change our ways and right the wrongs we have wrought, by replacing carelessness and greed with love and gratitude. We welcome the Calgary Boys' Choir (a group Paul Grindlay directed for 13 seasons) for this multimedia presentation.

***We are eager to honour the voices
of nature, today's youth, and
Canadian indigenous composers
whose wisdom invites us into a
more respectful and sustainable
relationship with Mother Earth."***

- Paul Grindlay, Artistic Director





FAURÉ REQUIEM

Saturday May 11, 2024 | 8:00pm
Knox United Church
506-4th Street SW, Calgary

Although French organist, Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924), destroyed many of his manuscripts after first performances, he is recognized today as one of the preeminent composers of his generation. Begun in 1887 and completed in 1901, his *Requiem* is remarkably expressive, elegant and colourful. We will perform the work in Fauré's original chamber instrumentation for chorus, baritone and soprano soloists, with organ, violin and harp.

For me, this piece was a case of love on first listening. The gravitas of the opening D minor chords grabbed my heart and pulled me right in."

- Paul Grindlay, Artistic Director





THE FESTIVAL CHORUS

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c/o Arts Commons

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