

THE FESTIVAL CHORUS  
25/26 SEASON

BEAUTY  
ALL AROUND US

Saturday, November 22, 2025  
7:30 PM | Knox United Church

[WWW.THEFESTIVALCHORUS.COM](http://WWW.THEFESTIVALCHORUS.COM)





THE  
FESTIVAL  
CHORUS

**67<sup>th</sup>**  
**SEASON**  
**2025 - 2026**

Artistic Director

**Cody Obst**

Chorus Accompanist

**Elizabeth  
Clarke**

President

**Cam Schneider**

Membership Secretary

**Shirley Green**

Librarians

**Helga Shield  
Ary De Jong**  
Librarian Emeritus

Treasurer

**Dmetri Berko**

Marketing

**Danielle Kondruk**

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Logo, Season Theme & Program Design:  
Kevin Persaud | [www.kpersaud.com](http://www.kpersaud.com)

## CELEBRATING 67 YEARS!

The Festival Chorus has been lauded by Calgary Herald reviewer Kenneth Delong as one of Calgary's pre-eminent choral groups – “able to deliver the excitement and choral thrill that only a fine choir can.”

The Chorus has been applauded for its professionalism, musicality and inventive programming. The 40 to 50 auditioned members of the Chorus perform an annual series of three concerts, presenting the staples of a five-century-old choral repertoire—everything from the larger oratorio works requiring massive, stirring sound, to that of more intimate a cappella chamber works and swinging jazz selections.

The Festival Chorus was founded by Gerald Bales, O.C. and John Searchfield during the 1958-1959 season to perform a Handel-Purcell Festival. It became a standing amateur, community chorus and was conducted by John Searchfield until 1979, Dr. Brian Trevor from 1979 to 1991, Mel Kirby from 1991 to 2023, and Paul Grindlay from 2023 to 2025.

The Festival Chorus built its reputation on annual performances of full-evening oratorios works such as J.S. Bach's *Mass in B minor* and *St. John Passion*; Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, *Judas Maccabeus*, and *Solomon*; Haydn's *The Creation*, Mozart's 'Great' *Mass in C Minor*, Brahms' *A German Requiem* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and *St. Paul* and, in the realm of 'early music', Monteverdi's *Vespers of the Blessed Virgin 1610*.



**CODY OBST**  
Artistic Director

Cody Obst has loved choral music ever since he sang as a boy soprano soloist as a child and has grown into a mature conductor with the experience, commitment, and a passion to create music that stirs the soul and touches the heart.

Cody is thrilled to be working with The Festival Chorus as the new Artistic Director! In addition to this, he is the Conductor of the Calgary Women's Chorus, Music Director at Lakeview United Church, Artistic Director of the Sanctuary Sounds with Cody Obst concert series, and pianist in the chamber music trio, Trio Taleco. He has worked with many different choirs including the Calgary Multicultural Choir, Calgary Bach Choir, Savridi Singers, Firebird Chamber Singers, Calgary Children's Choir, Calgary Youth Choir, University of Calgary Chamber Choir, Calgary Choir for Peace, The Festival Chorus, and the Southern Centennial Singers (in addition to many church and school choirs.) Cody has participated in choral intensives with the Vancouver Chamber Choir, the University of Michigan, and attended invaluable clinics through World Choral Symposiums in both Copenhagen and Seoul, the Sacred Summer Music Conference in Norfolk (Virginia), Choir Alberta, and the Edmonton International Choral Festival. He has created and delivered special choral programs for both the Calgary Board of Education and Alberta First Nation Communities.



**ELIZABETH CLARKE**  
Chorus Accompanist

Calgary-based pianist Dr. Elizabeth Clarke is active as a performer, collaborator, and teacher. She has performed numerous solo and chamber recitals in Canada and the United States, and has been a concerto soloist with the University of Victoria orchestra. She is an in-demand accompanist and frequently works with singers and instrumentalists of all levels. Elizabeth is also a founding member of the violin and piano duo, There is Room, an exciting new chamber group that exists to share music and hospitality across Canada. As a teacher, she previously held the position of Assistant Professor in Residence at Bradley University in Peoria, IL, where she taught piano, aural skills, and music history. She has also held teaching assistantships at the University of Victoria and Michigan State University. Currently, she is a sessional instructor at Ambrose University in Calgary, and maintains a private studio at Calgary Music Academy.



# BEAUTY ALL AROUND US

Featuring: **Cody Obst, Artistic Director & Elizabeth Clarke, Chorus Accompanist**  
with musical guests: **Emily Phernambucq, flute • Andrea Case, cello**  
**Gary Tong, organ • Nia Devetsis, percussion**

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

### GOOD EVENING EVERYONE AND WELCOME!

On behalf of The Festival Chorus, I'm excited to welcome you to our first concert of the season—and my debut as Artistic Director. I'm truly grateful you're here to share this moment with us as we start a new season of music, creativity, and connection within our community.

Over the past several weeks, The Festival Chorus has worked hard to bring you a program that spans a wide range of styles and eras. The pieces differ in many ways—and the choir has certainly been put through its paces—but they all revolve around one simple question: *Where is beauty found?*

In a world filled with constant headlines of conflict and uncertainty, it's easy to forget that beauty still surrounds us. It's in nature, in friendship, in kindness and, of course, in music.

I hope you'll join us for all three of our concerts this season. We're diving into fresh repertoire, deepening our musical storytelling, and sharing some seriously great choral music! In February, we'll perform a dramatic concert with string orchestra and soloists, and in May, we'll take the stage of the Bella Concert Hall for a concert featuring the music of Brahms and Bernstein with the Bergmann Piano Duo.

I want to take a moment to thank the incredible members of The Festival Chorus. Their dedication, artistry, and love for this music make everything we do possible. Week after week, they bring their all to rehearsal and performance, and tonight's concert is a reflection of that commitment.

Finally, thank you for being here and for supporting live choral music. We hope this evening reminds you of the beauty in your own life and that tonight might be one of those beautiful moments.

Sincerely,

**Cody Obst**  
Artistic Director



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### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that we come together and create music on land known by the Blackfoot name **Moh-kíns-tsis**, which we also call **Calgary**. This land is on the traditional territories of the **Blackfoot Confederacy**, the **Stoney Nakoda**, and the **Tsuut'ina First Nations**, as well as the **Métis Nation of Alberta**. We honour this land and all those who share it in a spirit of peace, friendship, and respect.

# MEMBERS OF THE FESTIVAL CHORUS

## SINGING DURING THE 2025-2026 SEASON

### SOPRANOS

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Patricia Austin-Edy	Erin Moore
Kathleen Colmant	Ruth Morrow
Greta deGroot	Maria Newberry
Alice Dietrich	Lesley Renton
Flore Giton	Leonor Rodriguez
Shirley Green	Melissa Davis
Angela Herbst	Nicole Scheck
Annalise Jagt	Catherine Wall
Nancy Lear	Katherine Wright
Regina Landwehr	Grace Yuen
Danielle Mitchell	

### ALTOS

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Elwyn Brown	Rhonda Mottle
Yvonne Courtney	Hailey O'Brien
Luisa Izzo	Alayna Peters
Evelyn Jain	Helga Shield
Sarah Jones	Elena Silvestroff
Bonnie Limpert	Foyita Sleumer
Denyce Lundeen	

### TENORS

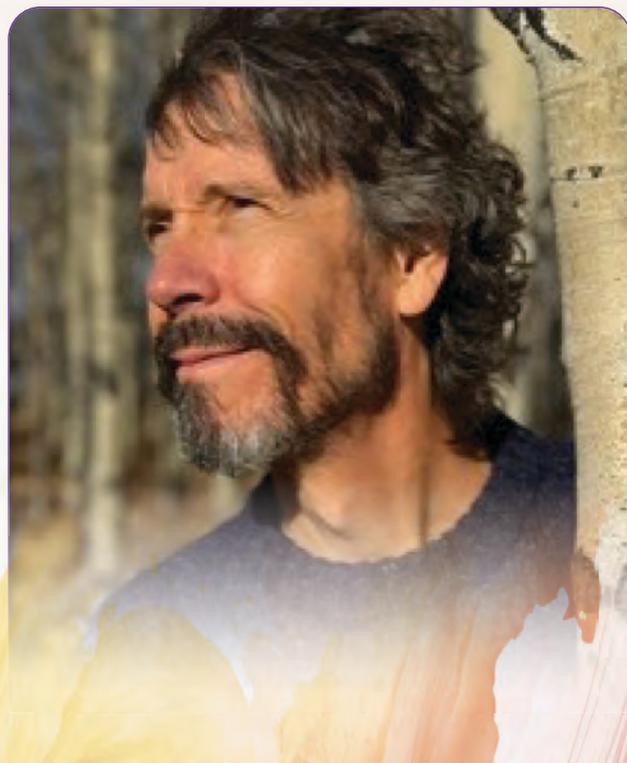
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Dennis Daly	Cam Schneider
Peter Baljeu	Leo van Gelder
Sandi Kallal	Doug Warne
Rogan McAndrews	

### BASSES

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Dale Kirschenman	Peter McIntyre
Paul Brown	Matthew Mak
Alan Lee	Martin Mobach
Peter Lundy	Bruce Renton



## PAUL GRINDLAY

### 1965 – 2025

The Festival Chorus is deeply saddened with the passing of Paul Grindlay on October 26th.

Paul was our Artistic Director for two glorious years. His passion for choral music, his unique skill as a voice instructor, his caring and patience, and his love for contemporary composers enriched our lives, improved our voice, and filled our hearts with joy. He was courageous in his affliction and so very thoughtful, even in his last days; such a caring and gentle spirit.

**Tonight we dedicate  
*The Peace of Wild Things*  
by Dan Forrest in  
remembrance of Paul.**

**Cam Schneider,**  
President, The Festival Chorus

# TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

Program subject to change.

🍁 Denotes a Canadian composer.

## How Still It Is [2009]

Stephen Chatman [b.1950] 🍁  
a cappella small group

## O Magnum Mysterium

Thomás Luis de Victoria [1548 – 1611]  
a cappella choir • *Text & Translations on pg. 8*

## Voices of Light [1993]

Paul Halley [b.1952] 🍁  
choir, flute, piano, organ

## Remembering You

Paul Halley [b. 1952] 🍁  
cello, piano, organ

## Intermezzo in F Minor, Op. 118, No. 4

Johannes Brahms [1833 – 1897]  
piano

## Nachtlied [from 3 Gesänge, Op. 73]

Heinrich von Herzogenberg [1843 – 1900]  
choir, piano • *Text & Translations on pg. 9*

## Let the River Run

arr. Craig Hella Johnson [b. 1962]  
choir, cello, piano, percussion

– INTERMISSION –



## Beauty All Around Us

Larry Nickel [b. 1952] 🍁  
choir, piano

## Andante Religioso [from Sonata No. 3, Op. 65]

Felix Mendelssohn [1809 - 1847]  
organ

## The Peace of Wild Things

Dan Forrest [b. 1978]  
choir, bowed vibraphone, percussion

## O Sacrum Convivium

Olivier Messiaen [1908 - 1992]  
vibraphone, organ

## Tambur [Old Hungarian Dancing Song]

Lajos Bárdos [1899 – 1986]  
arr. Jon Washburn [b. 1942] 🍁  
a cappella choir

## Home on the Range

arr. Mark Hayes [b. 1953]  
choir, flute, piano

## Montana

Paul Halley [b. 1952] 🍁  
flute, cello, piano, organ, percussion

## Make You Feel My Love

Bob Dylan [b. 1942]  
arr. Anna Lapwood [b. 1995]  
choir, organ

## I Will Sing

Michael Engelhardt [b. 1974]  
choir, piano, percussion

PLEASE NOTE: THIS EVENT MAY BE PHOTOGRAPHED FOR MARKETING PURPOSES.

## TONIGHT'S GUESTS

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**EMILY PHERNAMBUCQ**  
**FLUTE**

Canadian flutist Emily Phernambucq is currently based in Calgary, where she maintains an active career as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral performer. In October 2024, she performed as a soloist with the Calgary Civic

Symphony playing Chaminade's Concertino for Flute and Orchestra in the Jack Singer Concert Hall.

Appointed as Second Flute of the Red Deer Symphony Orchestra in 2023, Phernambucq regularly collaborates with numerous ensembles, including the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Regina Symphony Orchestra, Victoria Symphony Orchestra, and Calgary Civic Symphony. She has performed in prestigious venues across Canada such as the Jack Singer Concert Hall, Koerner Hall, the Winspear Centre, and the National Arts Centre.

An advocate for contemporary music, Phernambucq performs with Ammolite Opera, a company dedicated to celebrating new works and supporting Western Canadian artists. As an educator, Phernambucq is on the faculty at the Conservatory at Mount Royal University and has presented numerous recitals and masterclasses across Canada. She also works extensively with young musicians, leading band clinics throughout Calgary and Southern Alberta.

A native of Calgary, Phernambucq holds a Bachelor of Music and an Artist Diploma from The Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music, and a Master of Music from McGill University. Her primary teachers have included Denis Bluteau, Carolyn Christie, Nora Shulman, Susan Hoepfner, and Lauren Eselson.



**ANDREA CASE**  
**CELLO**

Andrea Case is co-founder and cellist of the Lily String Quartet, a group that has completed multiple tours across Canada, has performed for CBC Radio 2 and released a jazz CD with the award-

winning Hutchinson Andrew Trio. She records regularly in multiple genres including pop, folk, jazz and classical, has more than 20 years of teaching experience and adjudicates regularly. Andrea has played at festivals and with orchestras in Canada, Asia and Europe. She is Co-Artistic Director of Calgary's Kensington Sinfonia and performs regularly with this group along with Astralis String Quartet and baroque ensembles String Theory Music Collective and Chamber Muse. Kensington Sinfonia released its 35th Anniversary recording, Forces of Nature, in 2023, celebrating the veracity of the music scene in Southern Alberta.



## TONIGHT'S GUESTS



**GARY TONG**  
ORGAN

Born in Hong Kong, Gary received his professional musical training in Alberta, Canada. He holds degrees from Mount Royal College, the University of Calgary, University of Alberta, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, in piano

performance, organ performance, and Christian Studies. He was one of the finalists in the Calgary International Organ Competition in 2002, and 2nd prize winner for the Royal Canadian College of Organists National Playing Competition in 2003.

Gary returned to HK in 2005 and served in Music Ministry at the Methodist Church, Hong Kong. He was the founding conductor of the University of Hong Kong Christian Choir in 2006, while teaching at universities, churches and seminaries in Hong Kong. Gary returned to Calgary in 2025, now serving as Director of Music in Christ Church, Calgary. He also teaches at the University of Calgary as an Organ Instructor.



**NIA DEVETSIS**  
PERCUSSION

Nia Devetzs is a percussionist driven by the vivid and vast world of contemporary music, whether as a soloist or chamber musician. As a teaching artist, she is dedicated to education through performance and instruction, leading by

example and questioning audience expectations by asking, what exactly is percussion?

Nia's creative work expands across disciplines. She has been a collaborator for devised theatre works at the University of Calgary, including *Conduct*, *Pierrot's Gender Reveal Party* and *Just like the Moon* performing as a musician/actor. This work continues with Mudfoot Theater on *Yabber*, where she has built instruments and musical puppets alongside story and music development. She did foley design for *Murder in the Studio* with Vertigo Theatre for which she won a Betty Mitchell Award.

Nia is an instructor at the Mount Royal Conservatory where she guides a large private studio, coordinates percussion with the Academy program, and runs a popular summer percussion seminar.

# Calgary Women's Chorus

## 15th Anniversary

# CHRISTMAS GALA

Cody Obst, Artistic Director Antonina Cox, Pianist



# BELLA CONCERT HALL

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 AT 2:30 PM



GET TICKETS AT [CALGARYWOMENSCHORUS.CA](http://CALGARYWOMENSCHORUS.CA)

ADULTS & SENIORS \$35, STUDENTS & CHILDREN \$17

with Foothills Brass, Lily String Quartet, soprano Krista de Silva, flautist Emily Phernambucq, harpist Alita Laurie, percussionist Ernest Flancia, and our pianist Antonina Cox, and Artistic Director Cody Obst.

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

Thomás Luis de Victoria [1548 – 1611]

*O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentem in praesepio!  
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum  
Christum.  
Alleluia!*

*O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger!  
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ  
the Lord.  
Alleluia!*



 **25**  
**26**

**Calgary Bach Choir // Baroque & Beyond // Terry Edwards, Artistic Director**

*Masters OF THE Italian Baroque*  
SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2026  3:00 PM

FEATURING MUSIC BY  
Lotti, Pitoni, Palestrina/Bach, Strozzi, Handel & Marcello

WITH GUESTS:  
Hannah Pagenkopf, soprano // Lauren Woods, soprano  
Gary Tong, pipe organ

*Four Centuries OF Choral Song*  
SUNDAY 7 JUNE 2026  3:00 PM

FEATURING MUSIC BY  
Purcell, Praetorius, JS Bach, Lauridsen & Brahms

WITH GUESTS:  
Hannah Pagenkopf, soprano // Andrea Hill, alto  
Jason Ragan, tenor // Tyler Fitzgerald, bass

**TICKETS**

Adults **\$30** • Seniors **\$25** • Students (19 and over) **\$10**

Students (18 and under) **Free**

Available online at [calgarybachsociety.com](http://calgarybachsociety.com)

or at the ticket desk prior to concerts

Concerts take place at Knox United Church, 506 – 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW

[calgarybachsociety.com](http://calgarybachsociety.com)  CalgaryBachSociety   @CalBachchoir



### NACHTLIED

Heinrich von Herzogenberg [1843 – 1900]

*Quellende, schwellende Nacht,  
Voll von Lichtern und Sternen:  
In den ewigen Fernen,  
Sage, was ist da erwacht?*

*Herz in der Brust wird beengt;  
Steigendes, neigendes Leben,  
Riesenhaft fühle ich's weben,  
Welches das meine verdrängt.*

*Schlaf, da nahst du dich leis',  
Wie dem Kinde die Amme,  
Und um die dürftige Flamme  
Ziehst du den schützenden Kreis.*

*Flowing, swelling night,  
full of lights and stars:  
in the endless distances,  
speak: what has awakened out there?*

*The heart in my breast is crowded  
with the rise and fall of life;  
I feel it weaving about me, an immense thing  
that squeezes mine out.*

*Sleep, you approach gently  
as the nurse approaches a child;  
and about this paltry flame  
you form a protective circle.*



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POWERFUL EMOTION

# THE FESTIVAL CHORUS 25/26 SEASON

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

REQUIEM  
FOR SOLACE

Saturday, February 28, 2026  
7:30 PM | Knox United Church

TWO PIANOS,  
ONE HEART

Saturday, May 10, 2026  
2:30 PM | Bella Concert Hall MRU



TICKETS ON SALE NOW  
[WWW.THEFESTIVALCHORUS.COM](http://WWW.THEFESTIVALCHORUS.COM)



## DONOR RECOGNITION

*The Festival Chorus thanks each of the following for making music with us!*

### Maestro \$1500+

Patricia Grindlay  
Denyce & Glen Lundeen  
Evelyn Jain

### Jubiloso \$1000 - \$1499

Frances Coughlan  
John Davies  
Shirley Green

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Rona & Norman Bird  
Sandra Follett  
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Maxime Dumont  
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Lucinda Neufeld



### In Remembrance of

Colin McLaren Grindlay  
Sheila Burns  
Paul Grindlay

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