

THE FESTIVAL CHORUS
25/26 SEASON

REQUIEM
FOR SOLACE

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

WWW.THEFESTIVALCHORUS.COM



THE
FESTIVAL
CHORUS





67th SEASON 2025 - 2026

Artistic Director

Cody Obst

Chorus Accompanist

**Elizabeth
Clarke**

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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.



REQUIEM FOR SOLACE

Featuring: **Cody Obst**, *Artistic Director & Elizabeth Clarke*, *Chorus Accompanist*
with special guest artists: **Richard Scholz**, *trumpet* • **Andrea Hill**, *soprano*
Malachi Chan, *boy soprano*

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As we grow older, it is inevitable that our experiences shape us. Life's ups and downs gently mold our character, shifting our perspective and teaching us lessons along the way. I don't know anyone who can say their life has gone exactly as planned—the world simply doesn't work that way. One day may bring a mountaintop experience, and the next, a dark valley. We must learn to take life as it comes.

Why is this relevant? The theme of tonight's concert is solace.

Solace is both a noun and a verb: *comfort or consolation in a time of distress, and the act of offering that comfort to others*. The music on tonight's program acknowledges that pain is an inescapable part of our fragile existence—and it also reminds us that comfort, peace, and beauty are still within reach.

In *The Ninety and Nine* and *Weeping Mary*, we find solace in the divine. *Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep* suggests that comfort is not found somewhere beyond us, but all around us—from diamond glints on snow to sunlight on ripened grain. Throughout the first half of the program, we encounter solace through faith, memory, love, and home.

The major work on tonight's program, Kim André Arnesen's *Requiem for Solace*, brings these ideas together. Written as a work meant to offer comfort to all, it weaves the traditional Latin funeral Mass with poetry by Emily Dickinson and texts from the Hebrew Union Prayer Book. In the movement *Not in Vain*, we are reminded that meaning is found not in status, recognition, or achievement, but in the simple and profound act of helping others.

It is my hope that through this thoughtful selection of music, you will have space to reflect on what makes life beautiful. How do you find comfort? What experiences have shaped who you are? And what can each of us do, in our own small way, to make this world a more compassionate place—one where solace and peace might be found?

Cody Obst
Artistic Director



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that we come together and create music on land known by the Blackfoot name Moh-kins-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

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

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

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

BASSES

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

THE FESTIVAL CHORUS ORCHESTRA

James Desautels	<i>Concertmaster, violin 1</i>
Anastasia Lykshosherstova	<i>violin 1</i>
Brigit Knecht	<i>violin 1</i>
Lev Nesterov	<i>violin 2</i>
Louise Stuppard	<i>violin 2</i>
Carmen Ashmead	<i>violin 2</i>
Dean O'Brien	<i>viola</i>
Ronelle Schaufele	<i>viola</i>
Nigel Boehm	<i>cello</i>
Tom Megee	<i>cello</i>
Nia Devetsis	<i>percussion</i>
Mar James	<i>percussion</i>
Bob Fenske	<i>percussion</i>

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TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

Program subject to change.

♣ *Canadian composer.*

TO MORNING

Allan Bevan [b. 1951] ♣
strings

THE NINETY AND NINE

Craig Courtney [b. 1948]
choir, piano

WEEPING MARY

Nathaniel Dett [1882 – 1943] ♣
choir

DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND WEEP

Eleanor Daley [b. 1955] ♣
small group

I HIMMELEN, OP 74

Edvard Grieg [1843 – 1907]
Rogan McAndrew, *tenor soloist*
choir

PRAYER OF ST. GREGORY, OP 62

Alan Hovanes [1911 – 2000]
Richard Scholz, *solo trumpet*
strings

LOVE IS ENOUGH

Matthew Mak ♣
choir

THE ROAD HOME

Stephen Paulus [1949 – 2014]
choir

– INTERMISSION –

REQUIEM FOR SOLACE

Kim Andre Arnesen [b. 1980]
Richard Scholz, *solo trumpet*
Andrea Hill, *soprano*
Malachi Chan, *boy soprano*
choir, strings, percussion

- I. REQUIEM AETERNAM
- II. DIES IRAE
- III. NOT IN VAIN
- IV. LACRIMOSA
- V. REX TREMENDAE
- VI. PIE JESU
- VII. SANCTUS
- VIII. WE REMEMBER THEM

**TONIGHT'S CONCERT HAS
BEEN SPONSORED IN
REMEMBRANCE OF
FRANCES COUGHLAN.**

Frances was a loyal and enthusiastic fan of the Festival Chorus. She came to every concert over the past ten years, making the trip from Edmonton on the bus. At the end of each concert, without fail, Frances would joyfully report, "I loved every minute of it!"

Sadly, Frances passed away in November. We offer solace to her family and friends, and to all who mourn the loss of someone very dear.

WE REMEMBER THEM.

Cam Schneider,
President, The Festival Chorus



TONIGHT'S GUEST ARTISTS



RICHARD SCHOLZ TRUMPET

Richard Scholz has been a professional trumpet player for 30 years in the Calgary area. Described as a “commanding, dynamic player”, he has been the principal trumpet player for the Red Deer Symphony since 2009 and has been performing with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra since 1995. Richard is currently a member of Rosa Baroqua and has played with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Regina Symphony Orchestra, and Theatre Calgary.

Richard’s many years of marching experience took him to Bloomington, Indiana, to perform with the Star of Indiana Drum and Bugle Corps from 1990-1992. From 1991-2000, Richard was a brass line instructor with Allegiance Elite Drum Crops. During this time, he also taught with the Regina Lions Band.

As a versatile freelance musician, Richard has played with performing groups such as Altius Brass, the Bow Valley Brass Quintet, Prime Time Big Band and the Land’s End Chamber Ensemble. His experience as a soloist includes performances with the Red Deer Symphony (most recently John Estacio’s *Trumpet Concerto* composed for Canada’s 150th birthday) and Bach’s *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2* where he played “the majestic piece with great flourish and panache.” Richard has also performed solo works with Alberta Winds, Metropolitan Winds and the University of Calgary Orchestra and Wind Ensemble.

Richard is a clinician, private instructor and teacher with the Calgary PhilKids program. He is a Bach Trumpet Performing Artist.



ANDREA HILL SOPRANO

Born and raised in Calgary, Canada, Canadian/American Andrea Hill has had the honour of singing on stages that include the Metropolitan Opera New York, l’Opéra National de Paris,

Covent Garden London, Teatro alla Scala Milan, and at the Festival d’Aix-en-Provence. Operatic roles include Carmen (*Carmen*, *Bizet*), Rosina (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Rossini), Varvara (Janaček’s *Katja Kabanova*), Judith (Bartok’s *Bluebeard’s Castle*), and Mélisande in Debussy’s *Pelléas et Mélisande*. Andrea also has the distinction of having been selected by Kurt Masur himself to sing Octavian in a concert of excerpts from Strauss’ *Der Rosenkavalier* under his baton at the Théâtre des Champs Elysées in Paris, and was an original cast member of Patrice Chéreau’s brilliant final production, Strauss’ *Elektra*.



MALACHI CHAN BOY SOPRANO

Malachi Chan is an enthusiastic and dedicated young musician with a deep passion for music and the arts. At just 11 years old, he enjoys singing, dancing, and playing both the piano and violin. In addition to his musical pursuits, Malachi has a strong interest in languages and is fluent in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin.

Malachi is currently a member of the Intermediate Piano Academy Program and the Chamber Strings Junior Orchestra at the Mount Royal Conservatory. He previously sang with the Cantare Children’s Choir and performed a solo with the Calgary Chinese Oratorio Society.

Malachi has received numerous awards for his musical achievements. In 2022, he earned First Place and a scholarship in the Grade 6 class at the Calgary Performing Arts Festival. That same year, he won Second Place in the Grade 6 & 7 class at the Alberta Provincial Music Festival. In 2023, he was honored as the Lois Webber Memorial Scholarship recipient at the Calgary Performing Arts Festival.

In June 2024, Malachi won multiple First Prizes in the Level 9 Piano Solo category at the Outstanding Young Musicians International Music Festival. Most recently, in November 2025, he received the Regional Gold Medal for Alberta from the Royal Conservatory of Music for his Grade 2 Voice examination.

Beyond music, Malachi was also a member of a competitive dance group that won Third Overall Prize at the Dance Invasion competition in spring 2022.

With his strong dedication, diverse talents, and love for the arts, Malachi continues to grow as a promising young performer.

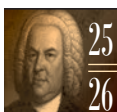


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I HIMMELEN

Text by Laurentius Laurentii Laurinus [1573–1655]

Translation by William Maccall

*I Himmelen, i Himmelen,
Hvor Gud, vor Herre bor,
Hvor saligt did at komme hen,
Hvor er den Glæde stor.
For evig, evig skal vi der
Se Gud i Lyset som han er,
Se Herren Zebaot.*

*Og Legemet, og Legemet
Som lagdes bort i Muld,
Det vorder alt så skinnende,
Ja, som det skjære Guld.
Og ved af ingen Vunde mer
Mens Åsyn det til Åsyn ser
Gud Herren Zebaot.*

*Og Sjælen får sin Prydelse,
Den Krone, som er sagt,
Retfærdighedens Brudekrans,
Og så den hvide Dragt.
O Gud, hvad Lyst at være dig nær,
At se i Lyset som Du er
Dig, Herren Zebaot.*

*In heav'n above, in heav'n above,
Where God, our Father, dwells;
How boundless there the blessedness!
No tongue its greatness tells;
There face to face, and full and free,
Forever evermore we see:
Our God, the Lord of hosts!*

*In heav'n above, in heav'n above,
What glory deep and bright!
The splendour of the noonday sun
Grows pale before its light:
The heavenly light that never goes down,
Around whose radiance clouds never frown,
Is God, the Lord of hosts!*

*In heav'n above, in heav'n above,
God hath a joy prepared,
Which mortal ear had never heard,
Nor mortal vision shared,
Which never pierced to mortal breast,
By mortal lips was never expressed,
O God, the Lord of hosts!*

REQUIEM FOR SOLACE

I. REQUIEM AETERNAM

*Requiem aeternam, dona eis, Domine:
et lux perpetua luceat eis,
Te decet hymnus Deus in Sion,
et tibi redetur votum in Jerusalem:
exaudi orationem meam,
ad te omnis caro veniet.*

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
A hymn befits thee, O God in Zion,
and to thee a vow shall be fulfilled in Jerusalem.
Hear my prayer,
for unto thee all flesh shall come.*

II. DIES IRAE

*Dies irae, dies illa,
Solvat saeculum in favilla:
Teste David cum Sibylla.
Quantus tremor est futurus,
Quando iudex est venturus.*

*Liber scriptus proferetur
In quo totum continetur
Iudex ergo cum sedebit,
Quid-quid latet apparebit.*

*Tuba mirum spargens sonum,
per sepulcra regionum,
coget omnes ante thronum.
Mors stupebit et natura,
Cum resurget creatura,
Judicant responsura.*

*Quid sum miser tunc dicturus?
Quem patronum rogaturus?*

*Day of wrath, that day,
shall dissolve the world into embers,
as David prophesied with the Sybil.
How great the trembling will be,
when the Judge shall come.*

*A written book will come forth,
in which all will be contained
When therefor the judge is seated,
whatever lies concealed will be revealed.*

*The trumpet spreading its wondrous sound
through the tombs of every land,
will summon all before the throne.
Death and nature will be astounded,
when all creation rises again,
to answer the judgement.*

*What am I a poor wretch to say?
What protector shall I ask for?*

III. NOT IN VAIN

Text by Emily Dickinson

*If I can stop one heart from breaking
I shall not live in vain:
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.*

*Kyrie eleison,
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.*

*Lord have mercy,
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.*

IV. LACRIMOSA

*Lacrimosa dies illa,
Qua resurget ex favilla
Judicandus homo reus.
Huic ergo parce, Deus.*

*O how fearful that day,
on which the guilty shall rise
from the embers to be judged
Spare them then, O God.*

V. REX TREMENDAE

*Rex tremendae majestatis
Qui salvandos salvas gratis,
salva me, fons pietatis.
Recordare, Jesu pie,
Quod sum causa tuae viae:
Ne me perdas illa die.*

*Quaerens me, sedisti, lassus,
Redemisti crucem passus;
Tantus labor non sit cassus.
Juste Judex ultionis,
Donum fac remissionis.
Ante diem rationis.*

*Ingemisco, tamquam reus,
Culpa rubet vultus meus;
Supplicanti parce, Deus,
Qui Mariam absolvisti,
Et latronem exaudisti,
Mihi quoque spem dedisti.*

*Preces meae non sunt dignae,
Sed tu, bonus, fac benigne,
Ne perenni cremer igne.
Inter oves locum praesta,
Et ab haedis me sequestra,
Statuens in parte dextra.*

*Confutatis maledictis
Flammis acribus addictis,
Voca me cum benedictis.
Ono supplex et acclinis,
Cor contritum quasi cinis.
Gere curam mei finis.*

*King of tremendous majesty,
Who freely saves the saved,
save me, fount of pity.
Remember, merciful Jesus,
That I am the cause of your sojourn:
Do not cast me out on that day.
Protect me in my final hour.*

*Seeking me, you sat down weary,
having suffered the cross, you redeemed me,
May such great labour not be in vain.
Just judge of remission,
grant the gift of remission,
before the day of reckoning.*

*I groan, like one who is guilty,
my face blushes with guilt.
Spare thy supplicant, O God.
You who absolved Mary Magdalene,
have also given hope to me.*

*My prayers are not worthy,
but Thou, good one, kindly grant
that I not burn in the everlasting fires,
Grant me a favoured place among thy sheep,
and separate me from the goats,
placing me at thy right hand.*

*When the cursed are confounded,
consigned to the fierce flames,
call me to be with the blessed.
I pray, suppliant and kneeling,
My heart contrite as if it were ashes,
protect me in my final hour.*

VI. PIE JESU

*Pie Jesu Domine,
dona eis requiem sempiternam.*

*Merciful Lord Jesus,
grant them everlasting rest.*

VII. SANCTUS

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth,
pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis!
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis!*

*Holy, Holy, Holy
Lord God of Hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!*

VIII. WE REMEMBER THEM

Hebrew Union Prayer Book

*In the rising of the sun,
in the blowing of the wind,
in the blueness of the skies,
in the rustling of the leaves.
In the beginning of the year,
And when it ends,
When we are weary and lost,
And in need of strength,
We remember them.*

*So long as we live, they too shall live.
We remember them.
Amen.*

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THE FESTIVAL CHORUS

25/26 SEASON

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ONE HEART

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THE FESTIVAL CHORUS

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