

The background of the poster is a dramatic seascape. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright sunset or sunrise breaking through in the center, casting a golden glow. Several bright lightning bolts are visible, striking down from the clouds. The ocean below is turbulent, with dark, churning waves and white foam from a breaking wave in the foreground. The overall mood is powerful and intense.

Chorus
NIAGARA

SONGS OF DESTINY

CHORUS NIAGARA

PROGRAMME

KATHLEEN ALLAN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

We acknowledge ...

that we are on the traditional and unceded territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, and Attawandaron peoples. This land has been a place of gathering, celebration, and exchange for countless generations of Indigenous communities. We pay our respects to their elders, past and present, and express gratitude for their stewardship of these lands and waters.

The Niagara region holds a rich history deeply interwoven with the Indigenous cultures that thrived here for millennia. For countless generations, singing has been an integral part of Indigenous traditions, serving as a means of storytelling, prayer, healing, and celebration. The melodies have carried the wisdom and knowledge of their ancestors, passing down their history and cultural heritage to the next generations.

Singing has been a vessel for connection, allowing Indigenous communities to maintain their sense of identity and unity with the land, and as we gather on this land, we humbly recognize the profound impact that singing has had and continues to have in maintaining the rich tapestry of Indigenous cultures.

In the spirit of reconciliation, let us commit to honoring and respecting the traditions, knowledge, and contributions of Indigenous peoples. May we learn from their deep understanding of the land and its interconnectedness, and may we strive to be better stewards of this territory that sustains us all.



SONGS OF DESTINY

November 8, 2025

Partridge Hall, FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre

Mireille Asselin, soprano | Ariana Maubach, mezzo-soprano
River Guard, tenor | Jesse Blumberg, bass
Niagara Symphony Orchestra (Bradley Thachuk, music director)
Kathleen Allan, artistic director and conductor

PROGRAMME

Leslee Heys

All Shall Be Well
(world premiere arrangement)

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Schicksalslied, Op. 54

INTERMISSION

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Requiem, K. 626
Completion by Robert D. Levin

Introitus

1. Requiem aeternam (Soprano solo and chorus)
2. Kyrie (Chorus)

Sequenz

3. Dies irae (Chorus)
4. Tuba mirum (Soli SATB)
5. Rex tremendae (Chorus)
6. Recordare (Soli SATB)
7. Confutatis (Chorus)
8. Lacrimosa (Chorus)
- Amen (Chorus)

Offertorium

9. Domine Jesu (Soli SATB and Chorus)
10. Hostias (Chorus)

Sanctus

11. Sanctus (Chorus)
12. Benedictus (Soli SATB and Chorus)

Agnus Dei

13. Agnus Dei (Chorus)

Communio

14. Lux aeterna (Soprano solo and Chorus)
Cum sanctis tuis (Chorus)

Dear friends of Chorus Niagara,

It is a joy to welcome you to Chorus Niagara's 62nd Season, my very first as your new Artistic Director! For more than sixty years, this choir has been a cultural cornerstone in the Niagara region, bringing together musical excellence and a strong sense of community. Stepping into this role after the remarkable tenure of Robert Cooper is both humbling and inspiring, and I'm excited to begin this new chapter with you.

Tonight's program begins our season-long journey, a series of four concerts bound together by a theme of unbreakable light. You will hear music that reflects the resilience, beauty, and joy that shine even in challenging times, blending some of the most beloved works in the choral repertoire with bold new creations.

I'm delighted to be collaborating with the Niagara Symphony Orchestra and our four stunning soloists: Mireille Asselin, Ariana Maubach, River Guard, and Jesse Blumberg. A special thank you to collaborative pianist Vlad Soloviev and conductor Yuan Chen for their expert support in rehearsals!

If you enjoy tonight's program, mark your calendars! Our season continues with the timeless beauty of Handel's *Messiah* on December 20th, the evocative storytelling of Reena Esmail's *Malhaar: A Requiem for Water* on February 28th, and Vaughan Williams's radiant *Five Mystical Songs* on April 25th, alongside the world premiere of a major new work by Cree composer Andrew Balfour.

Whether this is your first concert or you've been part of the Chorus Niagara family for decades, thank you for joining us. Your presence turns every performance into a shared moment of human connection, and I can't wait to share that with you!

Kathleen Allan, Artistic Director

PROGRAMME NOTES

In the spirit of new beginnings that honour the past, we start tonight's concert with a world premiere: a new arrangement of Leslee Heys's "All Shall Be Well" that invokes Julian of Norwich's (c.1342-c.1416) timeless words: "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." Originally composed for upper voices and piano, we commissioned Leslee to create a new arrangement for mixed choir and string orchestra especially for this evening's performance. It's a luminous and hopeful beginning, foreshadowing our theme of resilience, Brahms's own journey from darkness to light, and the "pacem" (peace) ultimately sought in Mozart's final masterpiece.

The initial inspiration for tonight's program began with Johannes Brahms's *Schicksalslied*, or *Song of Destiny*, a rarely performed piece that I have been hoping to program since I first came across it many years ago. Brahms was fascinated by the poem "Hyperions Schicksalslied" by Friedrich Hölderlin, and obsessed over how he might set it to music, daunted by the recent success of his German Requiem. Referred to by some as the "Little Requiem," the *Song of Destiny* depicts a serene, divine realm in the opening two verses in the luminous key of E-flat major. The

tone suddenly changes with the arrival of the third verse, portraying humanity's struggles and tireless longing for rest in the stormy relative key of C minor. While Brahms's earlier drafts returned to the opening music in E-flat major to bring some resolution to the strangely dark ending of the poem, Brahms was dissatisfied and felt it disregarded the turmoil depicted in the third verse. He ultimately arrived at a musical solution that changed the very meaning of the text, transporting the listener back to a more peaceful realm, but only by transforming the C minor gloom into a newly hopeful and stubbornly optimistic reprise in C major. It is as though he is saying: We may not reach the lofty utopia of the opening section, but through humanity's tireless perseverance through seemingly insurmountable obstacles, we may will reach a humble version of peace.

After intermission, we turn to the monumental and mysterious world of Mozart's *Requiem*, this time presented in the Robert Levin completion. The *Requiem* was famously unfinished, left incomplete at Mozart's death and traditionally performed in the completion by his student, Franz Xaver Süssmayr. While Süssmayr's version is the most well-known, Robert Levin's completion brings a fresh perspective, informed by modern scholarship and a deep understanding of Mozart's style. The Levin completion is notable for its attention to Mozart's musical language, filling in gaps with a sense of historical and stylistic authenticity (and a new "Amen" fugue!). Where Süssmayr's completion sometimes smooths over rough edges, Levin embraces some of the more daring harmonic and contrapuntal ideas that Mozart hinted at. The result is a version of the *Requiem* that feels both familiar and newly revelatory, allowing us to hear this iconic work with fresh ears. We invite you to experience tonight's performance of Mozart's *Requiem* not just as a monumental work of historical music, but as a living, breathing piece of art that continues to evolve.

Only after beginning rehearsals this September did I notice the prominence of a single word in each of the three texts sung on tonight's program: "Rest." – "Ruhen" – "Requiem." We all know that an artist's role is to hold up a mirror to the desires of humanity in their time and place, and apparently, for two and a half centuries (or eight if you include the 14th century mystic poetess of our opening piece), we have all been seeking the same thing.

— Kathleen Allan 2025



A MESSAGE FROM CN'S BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Board of Directors, welcome to this performance in the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre! Chorus Niagara is in its 62nd season and we are thrilled to welcome Kathleen Allan as our Artistic Director and acknowledge Robert Cooper, C.M. our Conductor Emeritus.

The Board of Directors works hard to govern and oversee all aspects of our business and I am pleased to have Maija Saari (Vice-Chair), John Senn (Treasurer), Hugh Gayler (Secretary), Allison Baker (Membership), Julia D'Amico (Marketing/Communications), Daryl Novak (Governance), Judy Willems (Past-Chair) and Nicole Tryhorn (Member at Large) on the Board, as well as our honorary lifetime member Jo Henderson.

Supporting delivery of our mission are staff Elise Naccarato (Managing Director) and Erica D'Amore (Administrator).

In addition to Kathleen, our artistic resources include Vlad Soloviev (Collaborative Pianist for Chorus Niagara), Yuan Chen (Rehearsal Assistant), Victoria Rondinelli (Principal Conductor of Chorus Niagara Children's Choir), who collaborates with Collaborative Pianists Julie Broomer and Janice Janzen.

Making choral music shine takes creativity, talent and dedication to the craft. My sincere thanks to our artists, staff and many volunteers. And my thanks to you for your support of this fine organization.

Jeff Baker,
Chair of the Board



EMBRACE THE *Extraordinary*
AND JOIN US FOR THE REST
OF THE 2025/2026
CONCERT SEASON!

**SCAN TO
PURCHASE
YOUR TICKETS!**



TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

All Shall Be Well

All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.

In my Love you begin.

In weal and woe you rest in my Love.

Above your pain and woe you will rise and fill with joy.

Then shall all say with one voice:

All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.

I did not say you will not be troubled,

I did not say you will not be tried,

I did not say you will not know sorrow,

But I do say You shall not be overcome.

All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.

— Julian of Norwich (c.1342-c.1416) from "Revelations of Divine Love"

Hyperions Schicksalslied

1. Ihr wandelt droben im Licht

You wander above in the light

Auf weichem Boden, selige Genien!

on soft ground, blessed genies!

Glänzende Götterlüfte

Blazing, divine breezes

Rühren euch leicht,

brush by you as lightly

Wie die Finger der Künstlerin

as the fingers of the player

Heilige Saiten.

on her holy strings.

2. Schicksallos, wie der schlafende

Fateless, like sleeping

Säugling, atmen die Himmlischen;

infants, the divine beings breathe,

Keusch bewahrt

chastely protected

In bescheidener Knospe,

in modest buds,

Blühet ewig

blooming eternally

Ihnen der Geist,

their spirits,

Und die seligen Augen

and their blissful eyes

Blicken in stiller

gazing in mute,

Ewiger Klarheit.

eternal clarity.

3. Doch uns ist gegeben,

Yet there is granted us

Auf keiner Stätte zu ruh'n;

no place to rest;

Es schwinden, es fallen

we vanish, we fall -

Die leidenden Menschen

the suffering humans -

Blindlings von einer

blind from one

Stunde [zur] andern,

hour to another,

Wie Wasser von Klippe

like water thrown from cliff

Zu Klippe geworfen,

to cliff,

Jahrlang in's Ungewisse hinab.

for years into the unknown depths.

— Friedrich Hölderlin (1770-1843)

Requiem

INTROITUS

1. Requiem aeternam (*Soprano solo and chorus*)

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,

Grant them eternal rest, Lord,

et lux perpetua luceat eis.

and let perpetual light shine on them.

Te decet hymnus, Deus in Sion,

You are praised, God, in Zion,

et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.

and homage will be paid to You in Jerusalem.

Exaudi orationem meam,

Hear my prayer,

ad te omnis caro veniet.

To you all flesh will come.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,

Grant them eternal rest, Lord,

et lux perpetua luceat eis.

and let perpetual light shine on them.

2. Kyrie (*Chorus*)

Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy on us.

Christe eleison.

Christ have mercy on us.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy on us.

SEQUENZ

3. Dies irae (*Chorus*)

Dies irae, dies illa

Day of wrath, day of anger

solvet saeculum in favilla,

will dissolve the world in ashes,

teste David cum Sibylla.

as foretold by David and the Sibyl.

Quantus tremor est futurus,

Great trembling there will be,

quando judex est venturus,

when the Judge descends from heaven,

cuncta stricte discussurus!

To examine all things closely!

4. Tuba mirum (*Soli SATB*)

Tuba mirum spargens sonum

The trumpet will send its wondrous sound

per sepulcra regionum,

throughout earth's sepulchres,

coget omnes ante thronum.

and gather all before the throne.

Mors stupebit et natura,

Death and nature will be astounded

cum resurget creatura,

when all creation rises again,

judicanti responsura.

to answer the judgement.

Liber scriptus proferetur,

A book will be brought forth,

in quo totum continetur,

in which all will be written,

unde mundus judicetur.

by which the world will be judged.

Judex ergo cum sedebit,

When the judge takes his place,

quidquid latet, apparebit,

what is hidden will be revealed,

nil inultum remanebit.

nothing will remain unavenged.

Quid sum miser tunc dicturus?

What shall a wretch like me say?

quem patronem rogaturus,

Who shall intercede for me,

cum vix Justus sit securus?

when the just ones need mercy?

5. Rex tremendae (*Chorus*)

Rex tremendae majestatis,

King of tremendous majesty,

qui salvandos salvas gratis,

who freely saves those worthy ones,

salva me, fons pietatis.

save me, source of mercy.

6. Recordare (*Soli SATB*)

Recordare, Jesu pie,

Remember, kind Jesus,

quod sum causa tuae viae;

my salvation caused your suffering;

ne me perdas illa die.

do not forsake me on that day.

Quaerens me, sedisti lassus,

Faint and weary you have sought me,

redemisti crucem passus;

redeemed me, suffering on the cross;

tantus labor non sit cassus.

may such great effort not be in vain.

Iuste iudex ultionis,

Righteous judge of vengeance,

bonum fac remissionis

grant me the gift of absolution

ante diem rationis.

before the day of retribution.

Ingemisco tamquam reus:

I moan as one who is guilty:

culpa rubet vultus meus;

owning my shame with a red face;

supplici parce, Deus.

suppliant before you, Lord.

Qui Mariam absolvisti,

You, who absolved Mary,

et latronem exaudisti,

and listened to the thief,

mihi quoque spem dedisti.

give me hope also.

Preces meae non sunt dignae,

My prayers are unworthy, but,

sed tu, bonus, fac benigne,

good Lord, have mercy,

ne perenni cremer igne.

and rescue me from eternal fire.

Inter oves locum praesta,

Provide me a place among the sheep,

Et ab haedis me sequestra,

and separate me from the goats,

Statuens in parte dextra.

guiding me to Your right hand.

7. Confutatis (Chorus)

Confutatis maledictis,

When the accused are confounded,

flammis acerbis addictis,

and doomed to flames of woe,

voca me cum benedictis.

call me among the blessed.

Oro supplex et acclinis:

I kneel with submissive heart,

cor contritum quasi cinis;

my contrition is like ashes;

gere curam mei finis.

help me in my final condition.

8. Lacrimosa (Chorus)

Lacrimosa dies illa,

That day of tears and mourning,

qua resurget ex favilla,

when from the ashes shall arise,

judicandus homo reus.

all humanity to be judged.

Huic ergo, parce, Deus,

Spare us by your mercy, Lord,

Pie Jesu Domine,

gentle Lord Jesus,

dona eis requiem.

grant them eternal rest.

Amen (Chorus)

OFFERTORIUM

9. Domine Jesu Christe (Soli SATB and Chorus)

Domine Jesu Christe, Rex gloriae,

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory,

libera animas omnium fidelium defunctorum

Liberate the souls of the faithful

de poenis inferni et de profundo lacu:

departed from the pains of hell and from the bottomless pit:

libera eas de ore leonis.

Deliver them from the lion's mouth,

ne absorbeat eas tartarus,

lest hell swallow them up,

ne cadant in obscurum.

lest they fall into darkness.

Sed signifer sanctus Michael

Let the standard-bearer, holy Michael,

repraesentet eas in lucem sanctam,

bring them into holy light.

quam olim Abrahae promisisti

Which was promised to Abraham

et semini ejus.

and his descendants.

10. Hostias (Chorus)

Hostias et preces tibi, Domine,

Sacrifices and prayers of praise,

laudis offerimus.

Lord, we offer to You.

tu suscipe pro animabus illis

Receive them in behalf of those souls we commemorate today.

Fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam,

And let them, Lord, pass from death to life,

quam olim Abrahae promisisti

which was promised to Abraham

et semini ejus.

and his descendants.

SANCTUS

11. Sanctus (Chorus)

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth,

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Hosanna in the highest.

12. Benedictus (Soli SATB and Chorus)

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini,

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Hosanna in the highest.

AGNUS DEI

13. Agnus Dei (Chorus)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant them rest.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant them eternal rest.

COMMUNIO

14. Lux aeterna (Soprano solo and Chorus)

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,

Let eternal light shine on them, Lord,

cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,

as with Your saints in eternity,

quia pius es.

because You are merciful.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,

Grant unto them eternal rest, Lord,

et lux perpetua luceat eis,

and let perpetual light shine on them,

Cum sanctis tuis (Chorus)

Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,

as with Your saints in eternity,

quia pius es.

because You are merciful.

20
Years
ANNIVERSARY

Chocolates etc.ca
...always the best
905.682.8828

100 Welland Ave. St Catharines
www.chocolatesetc.ca

**DEDICATED SPONSORS OF
CHORUS NIAGARA FOR
18 SEASONS AND COUNTING!**



KATHLEEN ALLAN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Kathleen Allan is the Artistic Director of Chorus Niagara, Artistic Director of the Amadeus Choir of Greater Toronto, and a member of the music faculty at the University of Toronto. In high demand as a guest conductor, commissioned composer, and clinician, she is equally comfortable working in early, contemporary, and symphonic repertoire.

Since the beginning of her tenure with the Amadeus Choir in 2019, the Choir has commissioned over a dozen new works, founded the Choral Creation Lab for emerging composers and poets, and formed new partnerships with diverse artists and ensembles throughout the GTA and beyond. From 2016-2023, she served as the Artistic Director of Canzona, Winnipeg's professional Baroque choir, with whom she conducted many of the masterworks of the Baroque era. A devoted interpreter of early music and steeped in the practice of historically-informed performance, she is passionate about finding relevant contemporary context for the works of the past and sharing their universal power with broad audiences. Recent guest conducting engagements include the Luminato Festival, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Victoria Symphony, Regina Symphony Orchestra, Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, and Early Music Vancouver. In 2015, Ms. Allan made her Asian debut conducting Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* in Japan, and in 2016, she was the recipient of the Sir Ernest MacMillan Prize in Choral Conducting.

Her compositions have been commissioned, performed and recorded by ensembles throughout the Americas and Europe and have been featured at two World Symposiums on Choral Music. Her music is published by Boosey and Hawkes, Oxford University Press, and Cypress Choral Music, and she is a MusicSpoke composer. Inspired by her Celtic roots and musical upbringing in Newfoundland and Labrador, her compositions often fuse contemporary rhythms and harmonies with undertones of ancient folk music. Also an accomplished soprano, she has appeared as a soloist with the National Broadcast Orchestra, Berkshire Choral Festival, and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. In addition to freelancing regularly in Canada and the US, she has performed as a member of the Vancouver Chamber Choir, the Arnold Schoenberg Chor (Vienna), Skylark Vocal Ensemble (Atlanta), Clarion Choir (New York), and the Yale Schola Cantorum (New Haven).

As a passionate educator, she served as Visiting Professor of Conducting at Western University from 2019 to 2021, and now teaches conducting to undergraduate and graduate students and directs the Chamber Choir at the University of Toronto. She holds a degree in composition from the University of British Columbia and a master's degree in conducting from Yale University.



VLAD SOLOVIEV, COLLABORATIVE PIANIST

Vlad Soloviev is a Hamilton-based pianist, conductor and operatic vocal coach.

As an operatic répétiteur, Vlad has worked at the Canadian Opera Company, Wolftrap Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Opera Arizona, Opera Sarasota, Highlands Opera Studio and University of Toronto Opera School and more.

As a conductor, Vlad has worked at Wolftrap Opera, Opera Arizona, Berlin Opera Academy, Mississauga Symphony Orchestra and Mississauga Festival Choir. As a concert pianist, Vlad has played at institutions like Carnegie Hall (New York), Salle Cortot (Paris), Bohemian National Hall (New York) and more. As a collaborative pianist, Vlad has

performed at institutions like Koerner Hall (Toronto), National Arts Center (Ottawa), Richard Bradshaw Amphitheater, the Kaufman Center (NYC), Toronto Summer Music Festival and more. Vlad has worked at institutions like the Eastman School of Music, Mannes College of Music, University of Toronto and the Glenn Gould School, performing over 200 recitals over the past ten years. As a vocal coach, Vlad helped singers prepare for successful auditions at institutions like the Paris Opera, Deutsche Oper, Metropolitan Opera, Merola, Santa Fe, Canadian Opera Company, Vancouver Opera, Opera de Montreal, and more.



SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR 2025/2026 SEASON CONCERTS!

DECEMBER 10, 2025

6:30PM

LINWELL CHURCH

335 LINWELL RD

ST. CATHARINES, ON

MAY 6, 2026

6:30PM

CALVARY CHURCH

89 SCOTT ST

ST. CATHARINES, ON

www.chorusniagara.org/cncc

GUEST ARTISTS



MIREILLE ASSELIN

Deemed “a treasure” by the Toronto Star, Canadian soprano Mireille Asselin enjoys a diverse career spanning opera, concert, and recital repertoire. A five-season artist at the Metropolitan Opera, she gained acclaim stepping in as Adele on opening night of *Die Fledermaus*, one of New York’s “most enchanting” performances of the season.

Recent roles include La Folie (*Platée*, Garsington Opera), Jonathas (*David et Jonathas*, Opera Atelier), Barbarina (*Le nozze di Figaro*, Canadian Opera Company), and Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*, Edmonton Opera/NAC). This season brings her debuts with London’s Royal Ballet and Opera in Handel’s *Giustino*, and the Canadian premiere

of *10 Days in a Madhouse* with Tapestry Opera.

An accomplished concert artist, she has appeared with major ensembles including the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris, Minnesota Orchestra, and Les Violons du Roy. Ottawa-born, Asselin holds degrees from Yale University and Toronto’s Glenn Gould School.



ARIANA MAUBACH

Canadian mezzo-soprano Ariana Maubach has been praised for her “plush, dark timbre voice of exceptional richness” (Parterre Box). She was recently named a winner of the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio Competition, earning both First Prize and Audience Choice, and was a 2025 national semifinalist in the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. This season, Ariana joins the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio, performing Rosina (ensemble performance) and Berta in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, while covering Stephano in *Roméo et Juliette*, Countess Ceprano and The Page in *Rigoletto*, and Katchen in *Werther*.

Recent highlights include Ragonde in *Le Comte Ory* at the Merola Opera Program and Hazel in the world premiere of Derrick Wang’s *Fearless* with Opera Delaware. An alum of the Academy of Vocal Arts, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and Eastman School of Music, she has also appeared as Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* and Smeton in *Anna Bolena*.



RIVER GUARD

Canadian Tenor River Guard was recently awarded Michigan District Winner in the Metropolitan Opera's Laffont Competition, as well as being named 3rd prize winner of the Canadian Opera Company's Ensemble Studio Competition. River was a Resident Artist at Detroit Opera from 2023 to 2025, where he served as B.F. Pinkerton cover in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Ferrando cover in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, and Alfredo cover as well as performed Gastone in Verdi's *La Traviata*. In the 2023 Season, River made his Opera Theatre of St. Louis debut as Elder Gleaton, covering Sam Polk in a new production of *Susannah* by Patricia Racette. River also covered the role of Mario Cavaradossi in James Robinson's premiere production of *Tosca*.

Notable roles include Lensky (*Eugene Onegin*), Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*), Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*), Don José (*La tragédie de Carmen*), Eisenstein (*Die Fledermaus*), Male Chorus (*The Rape of Lucretia*) and Miles Zegner (*Proving Up*). River is an alumna of the Gerdine Young Artist program, The Glenn Gould School Rebanks Family Fellowship, Wilfrid Laurier University, The University of Toronto, and the Aspen Music Festival and School.



JESSE BLUMBERG

Baritone Jesse Blumberg enjoys a busy schedule of opera, concerts, and recitals, performing repertoire from the Renaissance and Baroque to the 20th and 21st centuries. He has performed featured roles at Minnesota Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Atlanta Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Boston Early Music Festival, Opera Atelier, and at Château de Versailles Spectacles and London's Royal Festival Hall.

The 2025/2026 season sees Jesse collaborate with American Bach Soloists, Indianapolis Baroque, and Victoria Baroque, as well as appear with the Canadian Art Song Project in recital. He looks forward to his debut with Ottawa's National Arts Centre Orchestra for Handel's *Messiah*, and the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra for Haydn's *Creation*.

This past season, Jesse presented Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Bach's *St Matthew Passion* with the Grand Philharmonic Choir, and Fauré's *Requiem* with Symphony New Brunswick. Additionally, he performed Handel's *Messiah* with Symphony Nova Scotia, American Bach Soloists, and Boston Baroque.

The Magic of Music



Don't just hear the music—live it!
Find your seat at our upcoming concerts



From Darkness to Light: Mahler 5
November 23



Home for the Holidays
December 13 & 14



Postcards from Vienna
January 25

And much more!

Visit our website to see our
entire 2025-26 season lineup

nso



NIAGARA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Niagara Symphony Orchestra (NSO) has been an arts leader and cultural treasure in the Niagara Region for 75 years. Established in 1948 as the St. Catharines Civic Orchestra, the organization has grown from a small community ensemble into a fully professional orchestra with over 50 core-musicians. The NSO is dedicated to enriching the quality of life in the Niagara Region through diverse programming and a broad range of educational initiatives. Since 2015, the NSO has been performing at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in downtown St. Catharines. The NSO has also performed across the region with performances at Fallsview Casino and St. George's Pavilion in Niagara Falls. For more information about upcoming NSO concerts and initiatives visit niagarasymphony.com.

Violin 1

Sharon Lee
Linda Choi
Lorgia Loor
Xiaoling Li
Orsi Szalados
Valerie Sylvester

Violin 2

Vera Sherwood
Mary Beth Doherty
Charlene Nagel
Anna Hughes
Alexis Brett

Viola

Sarah de Niverville
Marlene Dankiw-Bath
Fanny Tang

Cello

Jill Sauerteig
Mark Russom
Junkyu Park

Bass

Peter Pavlovsky
Stephen Haynes

Flute

Doug Miller

Oboe

Ari Cohen Mann

Clarinet

Zach Yang
Graham Lord

Bassoon

Kevin Harris
Cathi MacDonnell

Horn

Austin Hitchcock

Trumpet

Fernando Raul Anaya Meza

Trombone

Dave Sisler
James Zimmerman (Bass)

Percussion

Laura Thomas

Our Choral Family

Chorus Niagara

Chorus Niagara is an auditioned adult choir dedicated to performing a wide spectrum of choral music to a high standard of excellence and fostering an appreciation for the choral art in the Niagara Region.

Side-by-Side High School Chorale

Each season Chorus Niagara invites motivated young adult singers from Niagara Region high schools to rehearse and perform alongside Chorus Niagara in one regular season concert. Participants take part in weekly rehearsals with Chorus Niagara and perform in the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre.

Robert Cooper Choral Scholars

The Robert Cooper Choral Scholars program supports and encourages aspiring post-secondary voice students. Scholars perform with Chorus Niagara for an entire season, work with one of Canada's top choral conductors, further their solo experience and receive a stipend. Scholars must apply and will be invited to audition.

Associate Conductor

Chorus Niagara offers young conductors the opportunity to work with an auditioned SATB choir under the tutelage of one of Canada's foremost choral conductors. They will gain hands-on conducting experience both in rehearsals and performances.

Chorus Niagara Children's Choir

Chorus Niagara Children's Choir encourages children in the Niagara Region to develop their musical knowledge, build relationships, and share their love of music with others.

For more information about any of these programs, please contact Elise Naccarato, Managing Director at chorusniagara100@gmail.com or by calling 905.932.6642

SCAN ME



It's not too late to audition for this season!

Sing With CN

Visit chorusniagara.org/about-aditions for more info

Voices of Chorus Niagara



Soprano

Nancy Boese
Teresa Cole
Thomasin Cooper**
Michelle Cumiskey
Renate Dau-Klaassen
Katalin Dekany
Emily Denney
Amy Dobson
Holly Dunning
Marlene Dykstra
Cindy Ellis
Kathleen Foster
Laura Lynn Harry
Fiona Loughheed
Katie Mariz*
Annie Schulz
Michaela Scrimger
Jane Thomas Yager
Alison Thomson
Tianna Vanderhoeven*
Judy Willems

Alto

Allison Baker**
Deb Bergen
Sue Biggs
Gemma Bishop
Joan Campbell
Ava Cattran
Kristin Chow
Jamie Church
Beth Cooper
Trish Crawford
Julia D'Amico
Suzie Findlay
Micheline Hauber
Miriam Hauber
Laura Huh
Susan Lewis
Ruth MacVicar
Gillian Mazzetti
Patricia McKenzie
Joan Medina
Claudia Meyer
Nancy Moffett
Annie Montgomery
Laurie Reimer
Maija Saari
Suzin Schiff
Karen Toppila
Julianna Vanderlinde
Virginia Vickers
Debbie Vreken
Ruth Wiebe
Ursula Witkowska
Katie Zartman

Tenor

Christopher Bee
Bill Durksen**
Albert Heemskerk
Daniel McColgan
Daryl Novak
Hugh Thomson
Daniel Titone

Bass

Lydell Andree-Wiebe**
Jeff Baker
Dean Bonsma
Warren Booth
Gordon Froese
Hugh Gayler
Chuck Greenham
Jonathon Hauber
Peter Hauber
Dick Holden
Brian Mellen
John Pendergrast
Kavin Qiu
Alf Redekopp
Ken Rempel
John Teeuwssen
Christopher Wilson
John Wilson

*Robert Cooper Choral Scholar

**Section Lead

Donors

We are pleased to acknowledge the support of our valued donors who donated \$50 or more since September 1, 2024. Our thanks go also to those among our donors who prefer to remain anonymous.

Patrons

\$10,000 or more

Sheila Bonapace
Robert and Megan Cooper
Josephine Henderson
Janet Partridge
Jennifer Pothier
John & Cathy Rollo

Friends

\$4500 to \$9999

Ryla Myhal
Ken Rempel

Artistic Director's Circle

\$1500 to \$4499

Rosemary Addison
Philip and Margaret Andrewes
Warren Booth and Eileen Dargavel
Donald Clements
Hugh Gayler and Eileen Martin
Janet and Bill Leighfield
Margaret Loney
Ruth and Perry MacVicar
Sean Foley and Margaret Matyus
Patricia McKenzie
Joan and Gus Medina
Rayla Myhal
Daryl Novak and Brian Harrison
Hector Pothier
Robert and Margaret Reid
Karen Toppila and Robert Wildbore
in memory of Jack Andrew Saarela
Annette Urlocker
Chris Wilson

Benefactor

\$500 to \$1499

Virginia Atkin and Keith Ambachtsheer
Jeff and Allison Baker
Kathleen Barry
Judy Brennan
Kathy Brown
Kristin Chow
Ted and Cindy Ellis
Tim Frazer
Charles Greenham
Doris Hauber
Joanne Heritz
Janice Janzen
Randy and Renate Klaassen
Peggy Lampard
Vicki and Patrick Little
Michael and Leslie Maddalena
Nancy and Duncan Moffett
Murray and Associates

Government Funders & Foundations

Art & Val Fleming Fund at the Niagara Community Foundation
Goettler Family Foundation
Marion Cross Fund
M&N Walker Fund at the Niagara Community Foundation



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



St. Catharines

Adrian Palmieri
Dan Patterson
Gail and Paul Price
John and Andrée Senn
Margo Smith
John Teeuwssen
Virginia Vickers
Emily Wilson

Sustainer

\$100 to \$499

Laura Adlers
Antipastos
Jane Andree
B.J. Armstrong
Thomas Bachelder
Roger and Diane Bain
Dr. Rodger J. Beatty
Paul and Rebecca Belletrutti
Christine Bellinaso
David Bergen
Deborah Bergen
Marlene Bergsma
Sue Biggs
Fiona Blaikie
Dan Blair
Peter Blanchet
Nancy Boese
Bond School of Music
Joan and Larry Bourk
James Bradley
Piper Burrows
David Butz
Joan Campbell
Bolyana and Predrag Canak
Robert Cary
Paul Casey
Dennis and Laurie Cheredar
Maureen and Richard Chudyk
Jamie Church
Adrienne Corti
Michael and Kathryn Cruise
Kristine Crumb

Suzanne Culp
Pat and Marilu D'Amore
Dr. KR Davidson & Associate Ministries
Kathleen Dionne
Andrea Douglas
Miriam Dunbar
William Durksen
George Dyck
Kelly Dykstra
Marlene Dykstra
Jane Dywan
Karin Eckart
John David Edison
Rudy and Dorithea Enns
Erika Fast
Judith Fetter
Heather Filson
Vanetta Susan Frail
Christine Franses
Marcus Freeman
Thora Freeman
Gordon Froese
Sharon Glasser
Nancy Gill
Jeanne M. Graham
Maria Grande
YangMei Gu
Angela Harris
Patricia Hartman
Margaret Heemskerk
Andrew Henderson
Dianne Heritz
Richard Holden and Margo Standish
Steve Hurtman
Erika and Peter Janzen
Richard Janzen
Heather Johnson
Susan Jugoan
Catherine Kaloutsy
Katie Kirkup
Maria Klassen
Joseph Kushner
Carolynn Laxton

Susan and Warren Lewis
 Trish Loat
 Nancy MacArthur
 Chris and Marilyn MacNaughton-
 O'Rourke
 Theresa Maddalena
 Nan Marshall
 Sandra Mason
 Gillian Mazzetti
 Cynthia McCune
 Susan McVean
 Ellen Merrill
 Claudia & Gary Meyer
 Hazel Milne
 Janice Miyata
 Terri Molloy
 Clayton and Karon Morehead
 Nancy Mouget
 Kathy and Fraser Mowat
 Jason Neudorf
 Niagara Agricultural Vineyard Equipment
 Gudrun O'Flynn
 Sue Omar
 Barbara Anne Ottewell
 Louisa Pacheco
 Peter Partridge
 Kenneth Pearce
 Irmgard Penner
 Harold Peters-Fransen
 Adrian Petry
 Doris and Carl Porter
 Gail Poulsen
 Joan Prior
 Irma Reimer
 James Reynolds
 Kim Robinson
 Marilyn Robinson
 Craig Robson
 Lorna Rogalski
 Bonnie Rose
 Antti Saari
 Matti Saari
 Joyce Schimpky
 Jen Schmaltz
 Annie Schulz
 Wilma Scott
 Colleen Scrimger
 Monica Simmie
 Colleen A. Smith
 Allan Spencer
 George and Elyse Strathy
 Susan Stuart
 Gunta Sturis
 Jason Swenor
 Maaike Teeuwssen
 Laura Thomas
 Alison Thomson
 Peter Thornley
 Daniel Titone
 Bev Tomkins
 Sto Tritchew
 Audrey Van Spronsen
 Glenn Vint
 John Vreken
 Linda Walters
 Lydell Andree-Wiebe
 Ruth and Richard Wiebe
 Steve Wiebe
 Erwin and Dorothy Wiers

Catherine Willard
 Janet Williams
 James Wilson
 Mark Wilson
 Wowk Law Corporation
 Gordon Young

Supporter \$51 to \$99

Barbara J Baker
 Laurie Bearss
 Bouwe D. Bergsma
 Keri Bishop
 Florence Boody
 Kenneth and Nancy Boody
 Lois Helen Boody
 Elise Bork
 Kim Brown
 Ronald Brown
 Victoria Buggeln
 Brandon Burtnik
 Kathy Burtnik
 Stacy and Dave Cattran
 Alison Danko
 Alan Dean
 Susan Dobell
 Adele Dyrzon
 Emily Ens
 Aidan Findlater
 Diane Fonagy
 Leanne Forrester
 Nancy Furness
 Jen and Bill Garvie
 Hertha Gast
 Jennifer Graham
 Helen Griebeling
 Linda Hammond
 Paula Harris
 Jonathon Hauber
 John and Marg Heideman
 Kathryn Heier-Siemens
 Pam Herbert
 Phil Hicks
 Elly Hoff
 Brenda Houde
 Bernadette James
 Tim and Janet Kaye
 Alice Keogh
 Steve Killoran
 Robert Kirk
 Helen Koop
 Ari Krajden
 Scott Lampard
 Cheryl Lane
 Carol Lewis
 Janet Lewis
 Diane Lockhart
 Debbie Luchkanyin
 Jill MacGlaflin
 Marie-France Marcie
 Marie McColgan
 D Todd McKinnon
 Susan Miyata
 Margaret Molokach
 Paul Morris
 Lise Nemcko
 Diane and Dick Netherway
 Wynne Nicholson
 Mindi O'Brien

Darlene Oord
 Janice Pay
 Lynne Pay
 Jacob Pendergrast
 Scott Pendergrast
 Sheila Petrie
 Jacqueline Pierce
 Alf & Linda Poetker
 John Rempel
 Rachel Rensink-Hoff
 Sam Rotundo
 Steve Sakes
 Lorraine Sawatzky
 Anne Schrompf
 Angela and Kevin Shantz
 Janice Slade
 Charlene Simpson
 Scott Thompson
 Emily Van Noort
 Steven Van Spronsen
 Blair Vickery
 Jan and Lucy Visscher
 Dilys Ward
 Cornelia Watson
 Sandra Watson
 Eric White
 Shawn White
 Caleigh Wilson
 Ursula Witkowska
 Louisella Zanatta

**We would like to thank all of our
 donors for their generous support
 and apologize if we have made any
 errors or omissions.**

**Please email Managing
 Director, Elise Naccarato, at
chorusniagara100@gmail.com to
 notify us of any edits.**



CHILDREN'S MESSIAH

Concert Sponsor, Janet Partridge



SAT DECEMBER 20, 2025
3:00PM | PARTRIDGE HALL



HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Concert Sponsor, Janet Partridge

SAT DECEMBER 20, 2025
7:30PM | PARTRIDGE HALL



Chorus
NIAGARA

REQUIEM

FOR WATER

SAT FEBRUARY 28, 2026

7:30PM | PARTRIDGE HALL



MYSTICAL SONGS

Concert Sponsor, Josephine Henderson

SAT APRIL 25, 2026

7:30PM | PARTRIDGE HALL

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY PARTNERS

M&N WALKER FUND

KEN REMPEL OF
REMPEL RE ELECTRIC



C ME MAIL

ART & VAL FLEMING

FEATHERSTONE
ESTATE WINERY

DONALD & BARBARA FRASER FAMILY
FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND

goettler
FAMILY FOUNDATION



School of
Wine, Beer
& Spirits

JANET PARTRIDGE, CONCERT SPONSOR, CHILDREN'S MESSIAH & HANDEL'S MESSIAH

JOSEPHINE HENDERSON, CONCERT SPONSOR, MYSTICAL SONGS



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



St. Catharines

CHORUS NIAGARA WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK AND RECOGNIZE OUR INDIVIDUAL PATRONS. A
FULL LIST OF DONORS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AND IN ALL CONCERT PROGRAMMES.

PAC BOX OFFICE:

250 St. Paul St.
St. Catharines ON L2R 3M2

FirstOntarioPAC.ca
(905) 688-0722 or 1-855-515-0722
boxoffice@FirstOntarioPAC.ca

CHORUS NIAGARA:

221 Glendale Avenue,
P.O. Box 25019,
St. Catharines, ON L2T 4C4

(905) 932-6642
chorusniagara100@gmail.com



CHORUSNIAGARA.ORG

Charitable Registration 87143 7968 RR0001