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ELEKTRA
WOMEN'S CHOIR

Morna Edmundson, Artistic Director
Stephen Smith, Piano and Organ

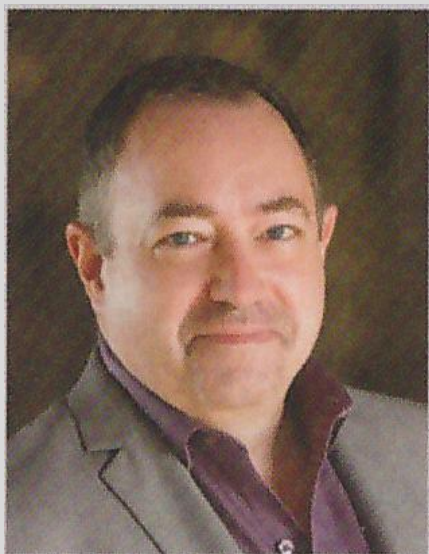
*Guest Artists Lorna McGhee, flute,
David Owen, oboe, and the Borealis String Quartet*

artist bios



MORNA EDMUNDSON is one of Canada's best-known choral conductors with a strong reputation for excellence. Passionate since childhood about choral singing, she obtained degrees and diplomas in vocal music in Vancouver, Bellingham, and Stockholm, Sweden where her teachers included

Eric Ericson. In 1987, she co-founded **Elektra Women's Choir** with **Diane Loomer**, a treasured partnership that lasted 22 years. In 2009, Morna became Elektra's sole Artistic Director, continuing the choir's strong leadership role in concert presentation, commissioning, recording, and mentorship. For 14 years Morna shared her love of quality repertoire with a new generation of singers in her role as Associate Artistic Director of **Coastal Sound Music Academy**, where she was Music Director of the mixed-voice **Youth Chamber Choir.** Morna has adjudicated in North America and Asia, conducted honour choirs in several states, co-directed the **American Choral Directors Association National Women's Honour Choir**, and gives frequent workshops with choirs of all ages. In 2000 she was presented with the **Healey Willan Award** for outstanding service to the **BC Choral Federation**, an organization she serves as a member of the **President's Advisory Council.** In February 2009 Morna was a recipient of the **BC Community Achievement Award**, which recognized her gifted organizational talent, leadership by example, and her encouragement of others to pursue their musical and choral goals. In June 2011 Morna received a **Vancouver YWCA Woman of Distinction** award in recognition of her work with Elektra. In June 2013 she began a three-year term as a Board member of **Chorus America**, the advocacy, research, and leadership development organization that gives voice to the choral field.



STEPHEN SMITH grew up in rural Nova Scotia, where he sang and played the piano from an early age. After initial studies in his home province in both piano and organ, he attended the **Royal Northern College of Music** in Manchester, England. While there, he participated in national and international competitions and won numerous awards and distinctions. Since 1990, Stephen has lived in Vancouver, obtaining his doctoral degree in piano performance from the **University of British Columbia**, and contributing to the musical life of the city as a performer, teacher, conductor, composer and arranger.

Central to Stephen's career is his long-standing relationship with some of Vancouver's finest choral groups. In addition to his work with **Elektra** (which he has accompanied since 2001), he is also resident accompanist of the **Vancouver Men's Chorus**, pianist for the **Vancouver Bach Choir**, and a frequent collaborator with **Chor Leoni Men's Choir**, the **Vancouver Chamber Choir**, and many other ensembles. Stephen is also a published composer and arranger of choral music, with a long and growing list of commissions from individual choirs across North America, and from such entities as the **British Columbia Choral Federation**, the **Women's Commissioning Consortium** of the **ACDA**, and the **Canadian Broadcasting Corporation**. Stephen's work as both composer and pianist can be heard on dozens of CDs in commercial release, including a solo recording of classical piano miniatures entitled *Kaleidoscope*, which is available on **iTunes**.

Scottish-born **LORNA MCGHEE** is principal flute with the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** and has performed as guest principal with **Chicago Symphony**, **Minnesota Orchestra**, **London Symphony**, **London Philharmonic**, **Academy of St-Martin-in-the-Fields** and **Chamber Orchestra of Europe**. Before emigrating to North America in 1998, McGhee was co-principal flute of the **BBC Symphony Orchestra** in England. As a soloist, she has given concerto performances with the **London Symphony Orchestra**, **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** and **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra** in the UK; **Manitoba Chamber Orchestra**, **Toronto Philharmonia** and **Victoria Symphony** in Canada; and the Nashville Chamber Orchestra and Oregon Bach Festival Orchestra in the United States. A career highlight was a performance of **Penderecki's *Flute Concerto*** with the **Oregon Bach Festival Orchestra** under the baton of the composer in 2004.

DAVID OWEN received a Master of Music degree from the **New England Conservatory of Music** and is now principal oboe of the **Vancouver Opera Orchestra** and the **Turning Point Ensemble**. He has also performed as Principal Oboe and English Horn soloist with the **Vancouver Symphony, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Radio Orchestra, Vancouver New Music Ensemble, Canadian Chamber Orchestra,** and **Banff Festival Orchestra**. David has participated in numerous broadcasts of symphonic, opera and chamber music repertoire, and appears in recordings on the **ATMA Classique, CMC Centredisc,** and **CBC Records** labels.

The Vancouver-based **BOREALIS QUARTET** was founded in 2000 and is regarded today as one of the leading ensembles in the world of its generation. Mentors include **Josef Gingold, Rostislav Dubinsky (Borodin), Andrew Dawes (Orford)** and **Emerson String Quartet**. A recipient of many awards, the Borealis's unprecedented success at a televised national competition resulted in a performance for the Prime Minister of Canada at the **Parliament Hill** in Ottawa for an audience of over 75,000. Since then, the Borealis has toured extensively worldwide to great acclaim. Their many recorded CDs also feature music especially written for Borealis. The quartet members are in residence and on faculty at the **Kwantlen Polytechnic University**. Performing on this CD with Elektra are **PATRICIA SHIH**, violin 1, **YUEL YAWNEY**, violin 2, **NIKITA POGREBNOY**, viola and **SHIH-LIN CHEN**, cello.

1) DECK THE HALL

Music: Traditional Welsh

Arranged by: John Rutter

Publisher: Oxford University Press,
Carols for Choirs 4

Deck the hall with boughs of holly.
Fa la la la la, la la la la!
'Tis the season to be jolly.
Fill the mead cup, drain the barrel.
Troll the ancient Christmas carol.

See the flowing bowl before us.
Strike the harp and join the chorus!
Follow me in merry measure
While I sing of beauty's treasure.

Fast away the old year passes.
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses!
Laughing, quaffing all together,
Heedless of the wind and weather



2) TYRLEY, TYRLOW

Text: 15th century English

Music: Mark Sirett

Publisher: Hinshaw Music HMC1754

About the field they piped full right,
so merrily the shepherds began to blow;
a-down from heaven they saw a light:
Tyrley, tyrLOW, tyrley, tyrLOW.

Of angels there came a company,
with merry songs and melody;

the shepherds anon 'gan them a-spy:
Tyrley, tyrLOW, tyrley, tyrLOW.

The shepherds hied them to Bethlehem,
to see the blessed sunes beam,
and there they found that glorious stream:
TyrLOW.

Now pray we to that meek child,
and to his mother that is so mild,
the which was never defiled:
Tyrley, tyrLOW, tyrley, tyrLOW.

That we may come unto his bliss,
where joy shall never miss,
then we may sing in paradise:
Tyrley, tyrLOW, tyrley, tyrLOW.

3) LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

Text: Greek Cherubic hymn, circa 275

Music: French medieval folk melody "Picardy"

Arranged by: Doug Claybrook

Publisher: Walton Music WLG146

Soloists: Danica Kell, Susan Edwards,
Stephanie Schollen

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,

4) BE STILL AND CONSIDER

Text: From Isaiah 40:12, 26, 28,

John 1:1-14, and John 3:16

Music: Larry Nickel

Publisher: Cypress Choral Music CP 1379

Who holds the dust of the earth in a basket?
Who weighs the mighty hills in a balance?
Lift your eyes, look to the heavens.
Who created all these?

Be still, be still.

Consider the wonders of God.

Lift up your eyes, look to the heavens.

Who created all these?

He who measured out the ocean in the
hollow of His hand.

In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

He who beckons out the starry host
and calls each one by name.

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He became flesh and dwelt among us.

For God so loved the world
that he gave His Son
and whosoever believes in Him
will have eternal life.

He who measured out the ocean
in the hollow of His hand.
Born to Virgin Mary, the Lord became a man.
He who beckons out the starry host
and calls each one by name.
Came to offer us abundant life,
His love is ours today.

5) MISTERIUM MIRABILE

Text: Anonymous, circa 1450

Music: Nicola LeFanu

Publisher: Edition Peters Group No. 71216

Rose—of a rose sing we.

Misterium mirabile (a wonderful mystery)

This rose is red of colour bright
Through whom our joy 'gan alight
Upon Christmas night.

Claro David germine

(from the illustrious line of David)

Of this rose was Christ born
To save mankind that was forlorn
And us all from sins sore.

Prophetarum carmine

(according to the song of the prophets)

This rose of flowers she is flower.
She will not fade in any shower.
To sinful men she sent succour.

Mira plenitudine (with wonderful fullness)

This rose is so fair of hue.

In maid Mary so true

There was born Lord of virtue.

Salvator sine crimine (guiltless Saviour)

Of a rose sing we.

Misterium mirabile (a wonderful mystery)

6) O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

Text Fourth of the nine responsories
for Matins of Christmas Day

Music: Ivo Antognini

Publisher: Alliance Music Publications
AMP 0896

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!*



7) NORTHERN LIGHTS

Text: from the Song of Solomon

Music: Ola Gjeilo

Publisher: Walton Music

Pulchra es amica mea suavis
et decora filia Jerusalem.
Pulchra es amica suavis
et decora sicut Jerusalem,
Terribilis ut castrorum acies ordinata.
Averte oculos tuos a me quia ipsi me avolare
fecerunt.

*Thou art beautiful, O my love,
sweet daughter of Jerusalem.
Thou art beautiful, O my love,
sweet and comely as Jerusalem,
Terrible as an army set in array.
Turn away thine eyes from me,
for they have made me flee away.*

8) INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

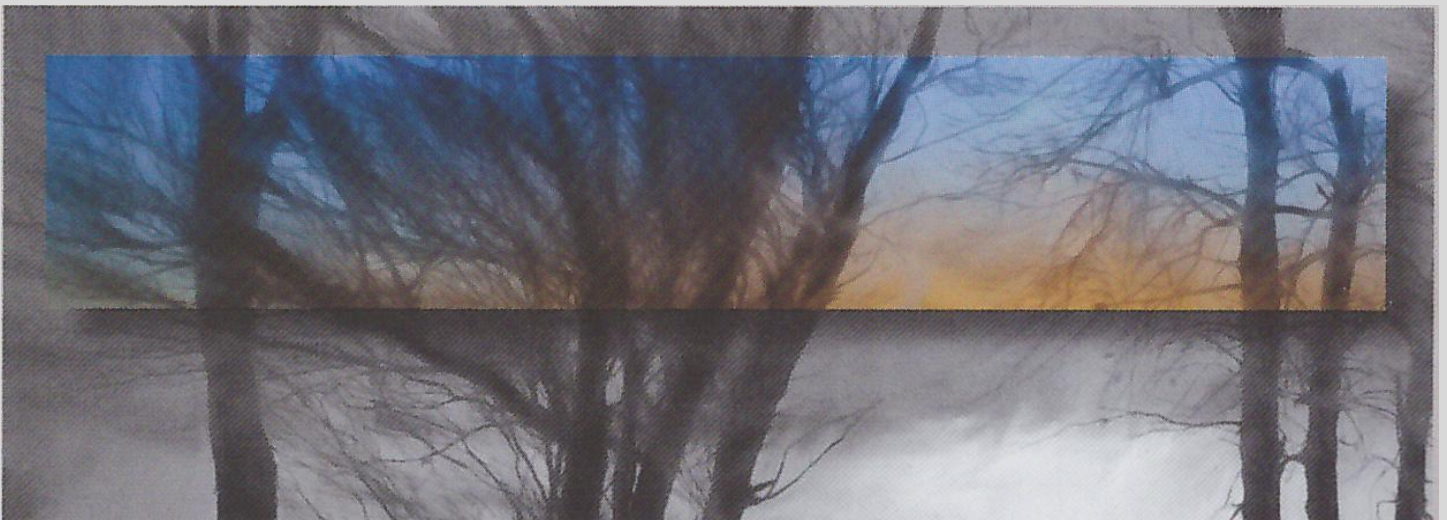
Text: traditional Polish

Music: Jeffrey Enns

Publisher: Cypress Choral Music 1380

Infant Holy, Infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing,
nowells ringing, tidings bringing,
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new;
Saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow.
Christ the Babe was born for you!



9) STILL, STILL, STILL

Text and Music: traditional Austrian

Arranged by: Ken Berg

Publisher: Walton Music WLG128

Soloist: Alicia O'Brien

Still, still, still,
One can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed,
The world is sleeping,
Holy Star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still,
One can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep,
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
Close your eyes,
Let sleep surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep,
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

Dream, dream, dream,
Of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number,
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream,
Of the joyous day to come.

10) IF YOU WOULD HEAR THE ANGELS SING

Text: Dora Greenwell (1821 — 1882), alt.

Music: Stephen Smith

Publisher: Rhythmic Trident Music Publishing

If you would hear the angels sing,
Rise, and light your Christmas fire,
And see that you pile the logs still higher,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
People, rise! The world is old,
And time is weary, worn, and cold,
Yet, Christmas comes in the morning!

If you would hear the angels sing,
Rise, and bake your Christmas bread.
'Tis merrier still the more that are fed,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
People, rise, the world is bare
And blank and dark with want and care,
Yet Christmas comes in the morning.

If you would hear the angels sing,
Rise, and open wide the door
Still wider than e'er it stood before,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
People rise! The world is wide
And many there be that stand outside.
Yet Christmas comes in the morning.

11) NOËL NOUVELET

Text and Music: traditional French.

Arranged by: Erica Phare

Publisher: Cypress Choral Music

Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.
Dévotes gens, crions à Dieu merci.
Chantons Noël pour le Roi nouvelet.
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

En Bethléem, étant tous réunis,
Trouvent l'enfant, Joseph, Marie aussi.
La crèche était au lieu dun bercelet.
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

Bientôt, les Rois, par étoile éclaircit,
De l'Orient, dont ils était sorti
A Bethléem vinrent une matinée.
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

Voici mon Dieu, mon Sauveur, Jésus Christ.
Par qui sera le prodige accompli
De nous sauver par son sang vermeillet.
Noël nouvelet, Noël chantons ici.

*New Christmas, Christmas we sing here,
Devout people, let us shout our thanks to God.
Let us sing Christmas for the new King.
New Christmas, Christmas we sing here.*

*In Bethlehem, all united,
Were found the child, Joseph, and Mary too.
The manger took the place of a crib.
New Christmas, Christmas we sing here.*

*Soon, the Kings, by the bright star
From their home in the East
Came one morning to Bethlehem.
New Christmas, Christmas we sing here.*

*This is my God, my Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Through whom the wonder will be accomplished
Of saving us through his red blood.
New Christmas, Christmas we sing here.*

12) HAIL, CHRISTMAS DAY!

Text: Rev. John Harris Burt

Music: Abbie Betinis

Publisher: Abbie Betinis Music Company

Hail, Christmas Day that brings the story
Echoed forth from East to West
Unto us God comes, he comes in glory.
Hodie Jesus Natus Est! (today Jesus is born)

All over Bethlehem hills a-singing,
Down through centuries to our day:
Peace, good will, and love he's bringing,
Gloria Tibi, Domine (glory to you, Lord)

What does this birth to us betoken?
Can he save from fear and doom?
This have saints and prophets spoken,
Christus Redemptor Omnium
(Christ the redeemer of all)

So, all good people, let's be giving
Praise and offerings profuse
Unto Christ, the Lord of Living,
Adeste Fidelis, gaudeamus
(O come, all ye faithful, let us rejoice)

13) THOU SHALT KNOW HIM

Text: Anonymous

Music: Mark Sirett

Publisher: Augsburg Fortress 0-8006-7530-

4

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by any din of drums,
Nor his manners, nor his airs,
Nor by anything he wears.

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by his crown or by his gown,
But his coming known shall be,
By the holy harmony which his
coming makes in thee.

Thou shalt know him when he comes.
Amen.

14) PRAYER FOR PEACE

Text: Bates Burt

Music: Abbie Betinis

Publisher: Abbie Betinis Music Company

Peace, the breath of peace is near,
it calms and cheers,
As we with eyes of faith look backward
through the years...

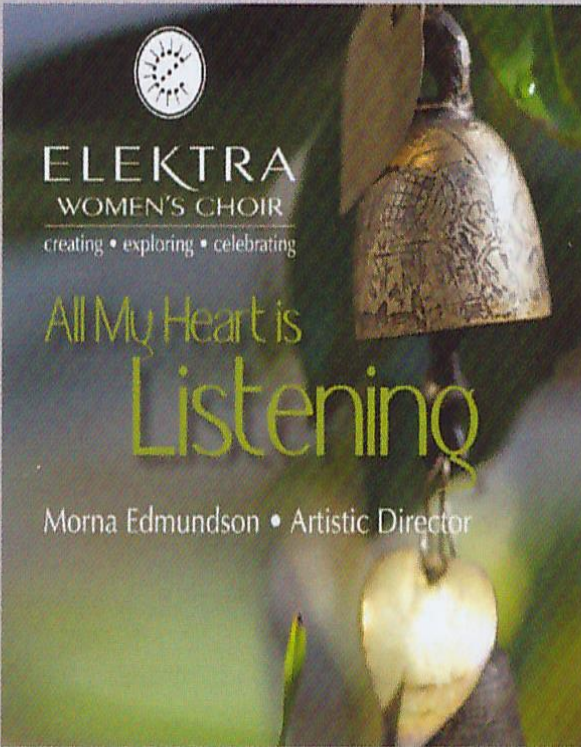
Peace, it was the Angels' song
when He was born,
Peace and Goodwill to all they sang,
on Christmas morn.
Gloria et in terra pax...
(Gloria and on earth peace...)

Lovely, oh so lovely, the reflected star,
The star of Hope in ev'ry eye that sought so far.
Far they sought to love him: Bethl'hem, Calvary,
That from their want and fear
all people shall be free.
Gloria et in terra pax...

Softly, o'er the snow so softly comes the sign,
A better peace descends to us at Christmastime.
Softly, o'er the snow so softly, then is gone...
So we wait in hope, and fear,
to see our century dawn.
Gloria et in terra pax...

Angels o'er the broken, spread your silver wings,
And help us to keep sacred all the love He brings.





Recorded and manufactured in Canada
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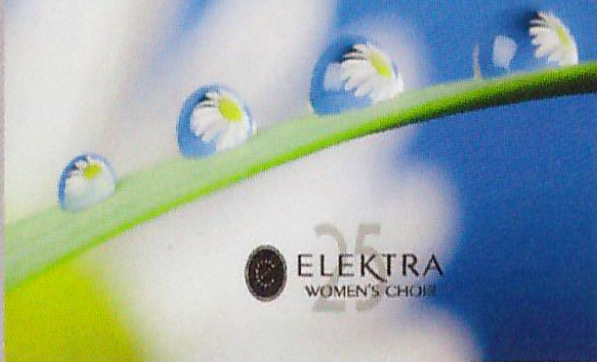
🍁 * Indicates Canadian composer or arranger

- | | |
|---|---|
| 🍁 1. Stars | Sheldon Rose |
| 🍁 2. The Dawn is not Distant | Christine Donkin |
| 🍁 3. Consider the Lilies | Stephen Smith |
| 4. The Peace of Wild Things | Joan Szymko |
| 🍁 5. Aria | Johann Sebastian Bach, <i>arr Malcolm Edwards</i> |
| 🍁 6. How the Blossoms are Falling | Ramona Luengen |
| 🍁 7. Noche de Lluvia | Sid Robinovitch |
| 🍁 8. The Circle Game | Joni Mitchell, <i>arr. Kate MacColl</i> |
| 9. My Funny Valentine | Rodgers and Hart, <i>arr. Bjørn Kruse</i> |
| 10. It Was a Lover and His Lass | Ward Swingle |
| 🍁 11. Yellow Twig of Willow | Stephen Smith |
| 🍁 12. If My Love Leaves Me | Trad Irish, <i>arr. S. Smith</i> |
| 🍁 13. Two Gaelic Songs: Cronan | Trad Gaelic, <i>arr. S. Smith</i> |
| 🍁 14. Two Gaelic Songs: E mo leannan | Trad Gaelic, <i>arr. S. Smith</i> |

Elektra Women's Choir's recordings are available at www.elektra.ca and on iTunes.

Pure Elektra

Morna Edmundson,
Artistic Director



Recorded and manufactured in Canada
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🍁 * Indicates Canadian composer or arranger

- | | |
|---|--|
| 🍁 1. Da Pacem | Jeffrey Ens |
| 2. Ave Regina Coelorum | Giovanni Legrenzi |
| 3. Lauda Sion | György Orbán |
| 🍁 4. In the Gardens of Shushan | Sheldon Rose |
| 5. Cedit, Hyems (Be Gone, Winter!) | Abbie Betinis |
| 🍁 6. Magnificat | Christine Donkin |
| 🍁 7. Early Spring | Kathleen Allen |
| 🍁 8. I Am Not Yours | Stephen Smith |
| 🍁 9. Joy | Kathleen Allen |
| 🍁 10. Changed Forever | Shari Ulrich, <i>arr. Kate MacColl</i> |
| 🍁 11. Un Canadien errant | Trad Québec, <i>arr. Mark Sirett</i> |
| 🍁 12. The Garden of Dreams | Timothy Corlis |
| 🍁 13. Solitude | Stephen Smith |
| 14. Le ruisseau | Gabriel Fauré |
| 🍁 15. what i want | Stephen Smith |
| 🍁 16. One Voice | Ruth Moody |



ELEKTRA
WOMEN'S CHOIR

creating • exploring • celebrating

Morna Edmundson, Artistic Director
Stephen Smith, Piano and Organ

elektra.ca

Producer: Liz Hamel

Recording Engineer: Don Harder

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Choir Photos: David Cooper

CD Design and Layout: Shannon Lythgoe

Recorded at Ryerson United Church, Vancouver, Canada

Recorded and manufactured in Canada

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