



ELEKTRA
WOMEN'S CHOIR

creating • exploring • celebrating



Tapestry International

Celebration of Women's Choirs

MAY 4-5, 2018

FEATURING

ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR

Morna Edmundson, Artistic Director

FRISCHES EI (Japan)

Mariko Miura, Artistic Director

GARDABAER WOMEN'S CHOIR (Iceland)

Ingibjörg Guðjónsdóttir, Artistic Director

VOX FEMINA LOS ANGELES (United States)

Iris Levine, Artistic Director



A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER JOHN HORGAN

As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, I am pleased to welcome everyone to the 2018 **Tapestry International Celebration of Women's Choirs** in Vancouver.

Elektra Women's Choir is closing its season with a multi-choir finale that brings together voices from around the world in celebration. This year, three international choirs will be joining Elektra in a showcase of uplifting performances: **VOX Femina Los Angeles**, **Frisches Ei** from Kyoto, Japan, and **Gardabaer Women's Choir** from Iceland.

Over four days, the voices of each unique ensemble will come together in collaboration, creation, and inspiration, with both individual and group performances, including a gala concert featuring all choirs. It's a wonderful way to experience such a multicultural and multi-faceted musical event in beautiful Vancouver.

I'd like to wish everyone a joyful celebration and a wonderful time at the 2018 Tapestry International Celebration of Women's Choirs!

Honourable John Horgan
PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR GREGOR ROBERTSON

On behalf of the people of Vancouver, I want to extend personal greetings and best wishes to all the choirs from **Iceland, Japan, Los Angeles** and **Elektra Women's Choir** to its triennial **Tapestry International Celebration of Women's Choirs**.

Performance arts are an integral aspect of Vancouver's culture, and the arts provide opportunities for people of all ages to join together and create community. As Mayor, I am proud of our thriving arts community. Elektra Women's Choir makes a tremendous contribution to the rich musical appetite of our city. Best wishes on what I am sure will be a wonderful performance.

Congratulations to the Elektra Women's Choir. I wish you continued growth and prosperity.

Yours truly

Gregor Robertson
MAYOR

949 West 49th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 2T1

tel: 604.739.1255
email: manager@elektra.ca
www.elektra.ca

Charitable Registration No.
89479 5582 RR0001



creativeBC



Andrew Mahon Foundation

Martha Lou Henley
Charitable Foundation

Nancy's Very Own Foundation

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Canada Foundation

Somerset Foundation
Vancouver Foundation

Season Media Sponsor



DLA Piper

The Haebler Group
Dunbar Ryerson United Church
Scotiabank Charity Challenge
Tickets Tonight

Welcome!

Welcome, all, and thank you for joining us this evening! Once again, the Elektra singers and I are armchair world travellers as we host friends from our choral world for **Tapestry International Celebration of Women's Choirs**. This week is our triennial chance to renew friendships and forge new ones with outstanding musicians who share our passion for the present and future of women's choral singing.

As the four choirs bring to light the flavour of their culture, the music of their region's composers and arrangers, and the distinct sound of their voices and programming, each Tapestry is unique. This year, our guests are **Frisches Ei** (yes, this is a Japanese choir whose name means "fresh eggs" in German!) conducted by **Mariko Miura**, **Gardabaer Women's Choir** led by **Ingibjörg Guðjónsdóttir**, and **VOX Femina Los Angeles** under the direction of **Iris Levine**. After more than a year of collaboration by email, these last few days together in Vancouver have seen us rehearsing, sharing, and learning from each other. We've eaten Vancouver cuisine, learned music, and shared some stories. My hope is that we will all leave with memories that will influence our music-making and our lives going forward.

At **Choral Threads** on May 4 (see page 12) you'll hear from each choir separately. The grand finale **Celebration Concert** on May 5 (see page 16) features cameos by each choir and 140 voices together singing one work from each country under the direction of the four conductors. Joining us for those works are the 12 talented singers of Elektra's **Mira Youth Mentorship** program.

Again, thank you for being with us tonight. We look forward to singing for you.

Morna Edmundson, Artistic Director

PS. There is always more I want to tell you about the music. Please check out my **Listener's Guide** on the Tapestry International concert page of www.elektra.ca.

PPS. If you would like to share your thoughts about what you've heard tonight, please go to the same web page. We'd love to hear from you.

Tapestry International is presented with the generous support of:



Martha Lou Henley
Charitable Foundation

Nancy's Very Own Foundation

Elektra Women's Choir gratefully acknowledges that this event takes place on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.



Elektra Women's Choir from Vancouver, Canada has been a leader among women's choirs since 1987. Under the direction of Artistic Director Morna Edmundson the 45-voice adult choir is known for its adventurous programming, seeking out music written specifically for women and frequently commissioning new works. The choir is honoured to work with an outstanding accompanist, Dr. Stephen Smith.

Elektra delivers its mandate to "inspire and lead" through an annual concert series including new and commissioned works and featuring outstanding guest artists. In addition to performing worthy repertoire from the past, Elektra has commissioned over 80 compositions and arrangements. The choir's recordings on iTunes and CD Baby extend the reach of its repertoire internationally. Elektra's 14th CD, *Your One and Only Life*, was released in November 2017 and features the music of Canadians Allan, Corlis, Fulton, Hanson, Murphy, Quartel, Smith, and the Wailin' Jennys. Elektra's website offers a permanent repertoire resource featuring all works programmed by the choir to date. Elektra's celebrated outreach programs encourage, train, and mentor the next generation of youth and adults: singers, conductors, and composers.

A multiple national prize-winning ensemble, Elektra has been honoured to perform at conferences of Choral Canada, the American Choral Directors Association, Chorus America, the International Society for Music Education, and the International Federation for Choral Music. Elektra participates enthusiastically in shared projects with other arts organizations such as the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and Chor Leoni Men's Choir, and in festivals and concert series. In July 2017, Elektra was one of two choirs representing Canada at the World Symposium on Choral Music, in Barcelona, Spain.

Soprano 1

Catherine Crouch, Julie Edmundson, Susanna Henderson, Danica Kell, Holly Kennedy*, Cassie Luftspring, Shannon Lythgoe, Ashley McConnell, Janine Magaw, Rachel Nelson, Jillian Schina, Alessia Todde

Soprano 2

Ann Busay, Catherine Cheneval, Patti Fletcher, Katrin Lohuaru, Amanda Randt, Sharon Schermbrucker, Kathryn Slemko*, Kim Taylor, Allison Tremblay, Maggie Van Seters, Patty Wagner

Alto 1

Amy Dawson*, Susan Edwards, Grace Groot, Kirstin Hain, Shelley Koke, Simone Lemieux, Sheila Little, Stephanie Loo, Stephanie Mayer, Alison Stillwell, Brenda Wilson

Alto 2

Beth Busby, Stephanie Ching, Maureen Ciarniello, Elisabeth Finch, Corinne Norbraten*, Alicia O'Brien, Denise O'Brien, Caitlin Robinson, Deirdre Rogers, Stephanie Schollen

* Section Leaders

MORNA EDMUNDSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



photo: David Cooper

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 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 2011, Morna received a YWCA Woman of Distinction award in recognition of her work with Elektra. Since 2013, Morna has served on the board of Chorus America, the advocacy, research, and leadership development organization that gives voice to the choral field.

STEPHEN SMITH, PIANIST



photo: David Cooper

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.

MARK TAKESHI MCGREGOR, FLUTIST

Vancouver flutist **Mark Takeshi McGregor** has enjoyed a rich and diverse career as a leading performer of classical and contemporary music. Recent engagements include the ISCM World New Music Days 2017 (Vancouver), Innovations en Concert (Montreal), Athelas New Music Festival (Copenhagen), Internationale ADEvantgarde-Festival (Munich), the Melos-Ethos Festival (Bratislava), and Núcleo Música Nova's 2016 International Symposium of New Music in Curitiba, Brazil. An advocate of new music for the flute, Mark has commissioned and premiered dozens of new works, including concerti, chamber music, and solo works. His solo flute album, *Sins & Fantasies*, was nominated for a 2014 Western Canadian Music Award and praised by *WholeNote Magazine* as "a brilliant conceit". Dr. McGregor teaches at the Vancouver Academy of Music. www.marktakeshimcgregor.com



Founded in 1997, **VOX Femina Los Angeles** gives women voice through the performance of quality choral literature. Diverse in culture, age, race, belief, and sexual identity, we are dedicated to commissioning new works and raising awareness about issues that affect us as a family of women. Through the power of music, we seek to create a world which affirms the worth and dignity of every person.

VOX has worked with 35 contemporary composers on over 40 new commissions for women's voices. VOX has made over 300 appearances throughout the United States, Mexico and Canada, collaborating with organizations such as the LA Philharmonic, LA Master Chorale, Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, CONTRA –TIEMPO Dance Theater, and the Colburn Orchestra. In 2016, VOX was named District Nonprofit of the Year by California State Senator Holly Mitchell, and came in first in the women's category and second overall in the International Golden State Choral Trophy competition.

Soprano 1

Suzy Brown, Kate Burns, Catherine Card, Allie Fukushima, Janet Joe, Raeanne Pfeifer, Toni Pogue, Clarissa Shan

Soprano 2

Rhonda Dillon, Leslie Kaplan, Valentina Knox-Jones, Danielle Koplinka-Loehr, Michele Mulidor, Mary Read, Lori Marie Rios

Alto 1

Frances Chee, Evi Desser, Megan Dickinson, Jenny Mazella, Marcela Pan, Marjorie Poe, Lauren Schellenbach, Ashley Sheagley

Alto 2

Jacklyn Agor, Alice Dryden, Laurie Fox, Miriam Hall, Joy Jakubowski, Helen Mendoza, Missy Nieto



IRIS LEVINE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Nationally recognized for her excellence in choral conducting, Dr. Iris S. Levine is founder and artistic director of VOX Femina Los Angeles, L.A.'s premier women's chorus. Through her extensive experience with women's choral literature, and innovative concert programming, Dr. Levine has charted VOX Femina on an impressive 21-year journey, building its prominence in the choral community by way of numerous appearances at ACDA conferences, and over 300 appearances throughout the United States, Mexico and Canada.

Dr. Levine is the Dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona. Now in her 28th year at Cal Poly, Dr. Levine served as Department Chair and Professor of Music and conducted the Kellogg Chamber Singers, taught Beginning Conducting, Choral Conducting and Music Education courses. Dr. Levine earned her Doctorate in Choral Music from the University of Southern California and she holds a Masters degree in Choral Conducting from Temple University in Philadelphia.

STEPHEN SMITH, GUEST PIANIST, BIOGRAPHY PAGE 5

Piano lover?

Elektra's 9' Steinway D grand piano, used for all concerts at Dunbar Ryerson United Church, is headed for some much-needed refurbishment. To date, Elektra and the congregation have raised over 80% of the costs.

If you would like to make a charitable donation toward the \$8,000 still needed, please contact

manager@elektra.ca





Frisches Ei (German for “fresh eggs”) is a women’s chorus based in Japan’s former capital, Kyoto. A leading ensemble in the country’s “Mothers’ Chorus” movement and the women’s chorus scene in its region, the group was founded by Mariko Miura out of a kindergarten PTA chorus. Active now for 20 years, Frisches Ei has performed in the Japan Choral Association (JCA) Mothers’ Chorus Festival for 19 years in a row and won an award for excellence 19 times. Seven times, they were chosen to represent Kyoto Prefecture in the national choral competition and achieved excellent scores. Acclaimed for their high, clear voices and sophisticated performances, these women have also performed at official functions. They perform Japanese choral repertoire with pride.

Soprano 1

Mie Anayama, Naomi Ino, Atsuko Ota, Harumi Soda, Hiromi Toyoda

Soprano 2

Motoko Araki, Hiroe Kasahara, Akiko Ueda, Noriko Yamauchi,

Alto 1

Hiroko Ashida, Megumi Hiratake, Sawako Ijiri, Tomoko Miyawaki

Alto 2

Mayumi Ikeuchi, Maki Kotera, Sumika Kunimatsu, Michiko Nakano, Yukari Uno, Yoko Yamaki

Managers

Yukari Ishihara, Yumiko Numata

MARIKO MIURA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Mariko Miura is a graduate of Kobe Women’s University, Faculty of Literature, Department of Education. Inspired by her extraordinary passion for choral music, she founded Frisches Ei in 1998, serving as conductor for the 19 years since. During this period, she has led Ei to the Japan Mothers’ Nationals, a competition organized by the Japan Choral Association, in 2001, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2014, and 2017. Mariko studied conducting technique under Kenji Otani, Hideki Motoyama, and Ken Tomioka. In 2016, as part of a course for conductors taught by Kenji Otani, she conducted The Philharmonic Chorus of Tokyo, a professional choir. Over a 12-year period from 2005 to 2017, she studied choral-orchestral works, including Bach’s

cantatas and Handel’s Messiah, in a course for conductors taught by Hideki Motoyama, achieving a comprehensive mastery of the associated techniques. Underpinned by a profound passion for music and choirs, as well as tireless efforts to hone her craft as a conductor, her music is vibrant and full of energy, yet finely detailed. Many have been captivated by her work. She is the composer of the school song of Kyoto City Moegi Kindergarten and a member of the Japan Choral Directors Association.

SAYURI YAMAMOTO, PIANIST



After graduating from Kyoto Music Highschool (now Horikawa Music Highschool), Sayuri obtained the undergraduate degree in Piano Performance from Kyoto City University of Arts. Sayuri has won gold in the Kyoto Piano Competitions and silver in the Asia Classic Music Concert.

Sayuri and her sister play as a duo and have performed at many concerts and events. Today, Sayuri is a special researcher of Kyoto Childrens Music School through Kyoto City University of Arts and also she teaches frequently at Horikawa Music Highschool and Ohtani College.





Kvennakór Garðabæjar (Gardabaer Women's Choir) was founded in the fall of 2000 in Garðabær, which is a growing town in the Greater Reykjavík area. The mission of the choir is to give women the opportunity to participate in ambitious, clearly-defined, and socially-rewarding singing projects. The founder and choir conductor is Ingibjörg Guðjónsdóttir and the pianist is Sólveig Anna Jónsdóttir.

Each year, the choir participates in numerous concerts and other cultural events. In addition to performing on various occasions in its hometown Garðabær, the choir has made concert tours in Iceland. Kvennakór Garðabæjar has also made international concert tours to Spain, Austria, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Sweden, The United States and Canada. In Spain the choir participated in its first international choir competition "Canta al mar" in 2015 and received a gold and silver for their performance in two music categories. The choir's CD, *Jólasöngur* (A Christmas Song) was released in 2010.

Since its foundation, Kvennakór Garðabæjar has become one of the pillars of Garðabær's cultural life. This important role was recently formalized with a contractual agreement between the choir and the municipality of Garðabær.

Soprano 1

Anna María Sigurjónsdóttir, Bára Snæfeld, Hafdís Erla Baldvinsdóttir, Heiða Gunnarsdóttir, Herdís Tómasdóttir, Ingibjörg Steinunn Ingjalbsdóttir, Kristín Erla Kristjánsdóttir, Kristjana Þórdís Jónsdóttir, Ragnheiður Dögg Ísaksdóttir

Soprano 2

Anna K. Svanlaugsdóttir, Helen Hreiðarsdóttir, Helga Melsteð, Jóhanna Guðrún Ólafsdóttir, Kolbrún Þ. Pálsdóttir, Kristín Ösp Jónsdóttir, Margrét Ásgeirsdóttir, Margrét Sigurðardóttir, Margrét Thorlacius Friðriksdóttir, Sigríður Kragh Hansdóttir, Valgerður Jóhannesdóttir

Alto 1

Halla Margrét Jóhannesdóttir, Katrín Rögn Harðardóttir, Margrét Valgerður Pálsdóttir, Margrét Milla Sigurjónsdóttir, Rannveig Ása Hjördísardóttir, Una Berglind Þorleifsdóttir, Valborg Stefánsdóttir

Alto 2

Agnes Kragh Hansdóttir, Halldóra Viðarsdóttir, Hrönn Eir Grétarsdóttir, Laufey Berglind Friðjónsdóttir, Ragnheiður Katrín Thorarensen, Sonja Hansen, Þórunn Sigurðardóttir

INGIBJÖRG GUÐJÓNSDÓTTIR, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Ingibjörg Guðjónsdóttir (b.1965) began singing at early age in the school choir in her hometown, Garðabær. She studied voice and piano at the Garðabær School of Music and continued her education in the USA at Indiana University. Ingibjörg has given recitals and performed as a soloist with symphony orchestras and choirs in many European countries. Working with the Icelandic chamber ensemble CAPUT has resulted in many performances of Icelandic contemporary music. Ingibjörg has released two CD's: *Operatic Arias* with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra and *Ó Ó Ingibjörg* with her brothers Óskar and Ómar, who are well known jazz musicians. Ingibjörg currently teaches singing at Hafnarfjörður School of Music as well as conducting Kvennakór Garðabæjar, which she founded in the year 2000.

SÓLVEIG ANNA JÓNSDÓTTIR, PIANIST



Sólveig Anna Jónsdóttir (b. 1959) studied piano at the Akureyri College of Music, later at the Reykjavik College of Music and then went for further studies at the University of Houston in Texas. Among her teachers were Philip Jenkins, Halldór Haraldsson and Nancy Weems. Sólveig Anna has extensive experience as a piano teacher and an accompanist and has been the accompanist for The Gardabaer Women's Choir since 2007. Sólveig Anna currently holds the position of vice principal at the Gardabaer College of Music.



Tapestry International Celebration of Women's Choirs

Choral Threads

May 4, 2018, St. John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church, Vancouver
7:30pm

Performers:

Elektra Women's Choir | Frisches Ei | Gardabaer Women's Choir
VOX Femina Los Angeles

Please turn off your cell phones! Please note that photography and videography (other than by Elektra's official photographers) are not permitted during the performance. At intermission and following the concert, we encourage you to tweet about your experience: @ElektraYVR – and visit our concert page on elektra.ca to write your own review!

Programme

ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR

(choir information on page 4)

One Voice Ruth Moody
Stephanie Ching, Janine Magaw, Stephanie Loo, soloists

Ruth Moody is a member of the Canadian folk trio, The Wailin' Jennys. We welcome our Tapestry International 2018 guest choirs with the words "This is the sound of all of us... a song for every one of us..."

Pity Me Not Stephen Smith (b. 1966)

Edna St. Vincent Millay's poem draws on images of nature. Daylight must end, flowers fade, and human desire is "hushed too soon". The poet urges the reader not to pity her that these things are true. Pity her only because her heart refuses to grasp what her mind already knows.

O-Yo-Yo trad. Quebec folksong, arr. Stephen Hatfield (b. 1956)
Sheila Little, Stephanie Schollen, Brenda Wilson, percussion

A playful story of monks flirting with women. In Québec, "un moine" is not only a monk, but a spinning top, and the brisk rhythmic songs of "merry monks" were also sung by children as they played spinning games.

VOX FEMINA LOS ANGELES

(choir information on page 6)

Scânteii Solare (Solar Flares) Jonathan Pieslak

Jonathan Pieslak sets Sabina Păuța Pieslak's Romanian text *Scânteii Solare (Solar Flares)* with playful verve. As the light of the stars and the sun play games on the melting snow of mountain peaks, so does the music: alternately shortening and elongating the phrases to create a challenging tangle of words and rhythm.

The Dawn Is Not Distant Christine Donkin
Clarissa Shan, soloist

Christine Donkin's *The Dawn is Not Distant* opens with the piano acting as a pointillist painter, dropping notes of sound like distant twinkling stars. Voices enter with contrasting smooth, lyrical phrases like a lullaby that gently urges the listener: "Suspice caelum et numera stellas/Look at the heavens, and count the stars."

Chapo Pou Fanm (Hats off to women!) Sidney Guillaume
Valentina Knox, Lori Marie Rios, soloists

Sidney Guillaume sets a text in Haitian Creole, which celebrates the strength of women across the world and throughout history, and their determination to revolt against harsh conditions and oppression and fight for positive social change. Guillaume's music expresses a deep appreciation for the work women have done to make a better world for all humanity.

Storm Comin' Ruth Moody / The Wailin' Jennys

Starting as a happy accident of solo singer/songwriters getting together for a one-time-only performance at a tiny guitar shop in Winnipeg, Manitoba, The Wailin' Jennys have grown over the years into one of today's most beloved international folk acts. *Storm Comin'* is one of their signature pieces.

Signs Ruth Huber

Ruth Huber draws upon the multitude of slogans that have become familiar to us from activist movements, and displayed on signs held aloft during the marches that have mobilized in response to current threats against civil rights, diversity, and equality. The piece draws focus to the powerful statements that gone viral through campaigns and social media.

❖ Intermission ❖

FRISCHES EI

(choir information on page 8)

Yuuyake (Sunset) Takatomi Nobunaga
text by Toshiko Takada

The music of this original composition reflects the relaxed beauty of a sunset. The Japanese children's nursery rhyme *Yuuyake koyake* is woven into the piano accompaniment. This is a prayer for a quiet mind resonating with the peaceful sunset.

Oboko iwaiuta (Baby Celebration Song) trad. folk song

From the folk traditions of the Aomori prefecture in the north of Japan, this song celebrates the birth of a child. A cheer called Naisorotoya celebrates a good harvest and wishes descendants prosperity.

Yanma (Dragonfly) Tokuhide Niimi
text by Shuntaro Tanikawa

This piece was composed based on the children's book *Word Playing Songs*. Yanma means dragonfly. The mysterious feelings or mood, and the sense of rhythm that the word itself has remind us of traditional children's songs.

Tinsagunu hana (*Balsam*) Hikaru Hayashi

This song, from Okinawa located in the southwest of Japan, is also called *Song of the Island*. In it, we sing about how precious the teachings from our parents are. Okinawan folk songs use a pentatonic scale known as “Ryukyu” scale. It has a slightly different style and mood from the mainland Japan and the rest of South East Asia.

Hananu Kajimayaa (*Flower windmill*) Hikaru Hayashi

The celebration of the 97th birthday is called Kajimayaa in Okinawa. Families, relatives and the whole town gets involved in the celebration of the person’s longevity. They put the elderly on a decorated vehicle, have them hold a colorful windmill, and parade through the town. “When the wind blows, it turns like a flower! Look, look, grandfather.”

Ami dooi (*It’s raining*) Hikaru Hayashi

Okinawa is in the subtropical region and it rains a lot. This song is a word playing song known as Shiritori, a word game in Japan in which one player has to say a word starting with the last syllable of the word given by the previous player.

Sakura Sakura (*Cherry Blossoms*)trad.Japanese song, arr. Masashi Wakamatsu

This is one of the most famous traditional songs of Japan, often used to represent the country. *Sakura Sakura* has been sung on many occasions nationally and internationally.

GARDABAER WOMEN’S CHOIR

(choir information on page 10)

Stóðum tvö í túni (*Amid the Town We Twain Stood*)trad. Icelandic folk song
arr. Bára Grímsdóttir

The lyrics in this song are from a poem in *Víglundar Saga*, one of the Icelandic Sagas, and it tells a dramatic story of forbidden love between Víglund and Ketilríð. In the song they stand together in a field as tears fall from their eyes. The arrangement is by Bára Grímsdóttir, a well-known Icelandic composer who specializes in folk music.

Í túninu heima (*In the Meadow at Home*) Hugl Guðmundsson (1977)

This song was written for Kvennakór Garðabæjar by a young composer, Hugl Guðmundsson, to a poem written by the Icelandic Nobel laureate, Halldór Kiljan Laxness. In the poem, Laxness reminisces about his childhood home in rural Iceland.

Hver á sér fegra föðurland (*Who Has a Fairer Fatherland*) Emil Thoroddsen (1898-1944)
arr. Smári Ólason, text by Hulda

This is one of the most beloved Icelandic patriotic songs, dedicated to the occasion of full independence from Denmark in 1944. The poem tells of the privilege of living in peaceful Iceland during the time of war. It describes the beauty of Iceland, the land of fire and ice, with boundless resources and expresses the hope that Icelanders will be so fortunate to never again be dependent on others.

Rura, rura barnið (*Cradle the Child*) trad. Faroe Islands folk song, arr. Th. Alvad

The Faroe Islands have a long and interesting history when it comes to music. *Cradle the Child* is one of the best known folk song of the Faroe Islands. According to this nursery rhyme, the child cannot fall asleep until it is convinced that “the evil one” has been locked in irons.

Stundom e’ mi kjering så god (*Sometimes My Love is So Sweet*)trad. Norwegian folk song
arr. Henrik Ödegaard

Norway has a long tradition of folk songs and folk dances. The song we perform is called “slåtter” and is an old fiddle tune in three part rhythm. The text is jovial and tells of a conjugal feud about when a husband has been adequately served by his wife.

Så tag mit hjerte (*So Take My Heart*)Michael Bojesen (1960), text by Tove Ditlevsen

The composer Michael Bojesen has written many of best known contemporary choral music in Denmark. In this piece his magical melody brings to life one of Denmark’s most beautiful love poems about the belief in love, which embraces and hurts at the same time.

Och Jungfrun hon går i ringen (*And The Maiden Joins the Dance*) trad. Swedish folk song
arr. Robert Sund

This cheerful piece dates back to the 16th century and it is believed to have been popular especially around Christmas and on Midsummer night when people gathered together to sing and dance.

The Joiku Jukka Linkola (1955)

The Sami people in northern Finland have a unique music tradition called the Joik (Yoik) which is based on improvisation and a sound world that originates in nature and from animals. Jukka Linkola, a contemporary Finnish composer, draws from this heritage in a five-series piece called *Primitive Music* of which this song is a part.

STAY CONNECTED AT **STRAIGHT.COM**    

Proud Media Sponsor
Elektra Women’s Choir



Vancouver's leading arts source.

Tapestry International Celebration of Women's Choirs Celebration Concert

May 5, 2018, Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver
7:30pm

Performers:
Gardabaer Women's Choir | Frisches Ei Choir | VOX Femina Los Angeles
Elektra Women's Choir

Please turn off your cell phones! Please note that photography and videography (other than by Elektra's official photographers) are not permitted during the performance. At intermission and following the concert, we encourage you to tweet about your experience: @ElektraYVR – and visit our concert page on elektra.ca to write your own review!

Programme

GARDABAER WOMEN'S CHOIR (choir information on page 10)

Í nótt mig dreymdi hamingjuna (*Tonight I Dreamt Happiness*)Gunnar Reynir Sveinsson (1933-2008)
text by W. Heinesen, trans. Þ.Porgeirsson

Although the Icelandic composer Gunnar Reynir Sveinsson is best known for his diverse compositions, he was also a percussionist, playing vibraphone in many jazz groups. In this dreamlike song, written to a poem by the Faroese writer William Heinesen, happiness appears in the shape of a bird.

Vorlauf (*Spring Leaf*) Hildigunnur Rúnarsdóttir (b. 1964)
text by Þorsteinn Valdimarsson

Life itself is the subject of this short poem and song. It tells how everything has a purpose and how insignificant we are in the grand scheme of things. Yet we all share the desire to blossom. Even the delicate spring leaf has a purpose and transpires to blossom and become a rose.

Konur (*Women*).....Þorkell Sigurbjörnsson (1938-2013), text by Jón úr Vör

This song tells the story of the lives of women in an Icelandic seaside village during the first part of the twentieth century. Life was hard but the women stood together, and love and caring support emanated from every act.

Kom natt (*Come Night*)Hillevi Dahl (b. 1958), text by Ingrid Sjöstrand

It is always a great pleasure for the choir to perform both music and lyrics by women. This beautiful piece tells about the importance of living in harmony with nature.

Brudmarsch från Vaddö (*Wedding March from Vaddö*) Hans Røjås, text by Johanna Thür

During the time when Sweden was a farming society ordinary farmers and fiddlers (spelemand) were not allowed to perform inside the Church itself during weddings. Music would traditionally be played as the bride made her way to the Church and again from the Church to the feast. These wedding marchers are usually named after the region they originate from.

FRISCHE EI (choir information on page 8)

Everyone Sang Ko Matsushita, text by Siegfried Sassoon

This is a vivid and moving work depicting the joy of the people that were released after the First World War. The basic rhythm that forms the song is inspired by the rhythm of the Malaysian dance "Jogget".

Yanma (*Dragonfly*) Tokuhide Niimi, text by Shuntaro Tanikawa

This piece was composed based on the children's book *Word Playing Songs*. Yanma means dragonfly. The mysterious feelings or mood, and the sense of rhythm that the word itself has remind us of traditional children's songs.

Yoakekara Higuremade (*From daybreak to sunset*) Nobunaga Takatomi, text by Ryoichi Kaze

The vocal ensemble contest national convention which was canceled by the East Japan Great Earthquake was revived in the next year with the passion of the people. This song was created on that occasion. Even in the harsh reality brought about by the tsunami, it is energetic music for regeneration—trying to find the light of hope.

VOX FEMINA LOS ANGELES (choir information on page 6)

Scânteii Solare (*Solar Flares*) Jonathan Pieslak

Jonathan Pieslak sets Sabina Păuța Pieslak's Romanian text *Scânteii Solare (Solar Flares)* with playful verve. As the light of the stars and the sun play games on the melting snow of mountain peaks, so does the music: alternately shortening and elongating the phrases to create a challenging tangle of words and rhythm.

The Dawn Is Not Distant Christine Donkin
Clarissa Shan, soloist

Christine Donkin's *The Dawn is Not Distant* opens with the piano acting as a pointillist painter, dropping notes of sound like distant twinkling stars. Voices enter with contrasting smooth, lyrical phrases like a lullaby that gently urges the listener: "Suspice caelum et numera stellas/Look at the heavens, and count the stars."

Signs Ruth Huber

Ruth Huber draws upon the multitude of slogans that have become familiar to us from activist movements, and displayed on signs held aloft during the marches that have mobilized in response to current threats against civil rights, diversity, and equality. The piece draws focus to the powerful statements that gone viral through campaigns and social media.

❖ *Intermission* ❖

ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR (choir information on page 4)

Let Me Fish Off Cape St. Mary'sOtto Kelland, arr. Diane Loomer (1940-2012)
Alicia O'Brien, soloist

When songwriter Kelland died at age 99 in 2004, his 1947 song evoking the traditional life of a Newfoundland fisher had long been the unofficial anthem of the easternmost province of Canada. The four verses paint a scene of the fisher's desire to return to his boat (called a "dory"), the fish ("caplin"), the tides, and the ocean waves.

Rain Makes Its Own Night (world premiere).....Alexina Louie (b. 1949), text by Anne Michaels

Elektra commissioned this work as part of a Choral Canada project in which Elektra will perform in the woods at Mt. Scio Savoury Farm in St. John's, Newfoundland on July 1. Five Canadian choirs are each bringing new music representing the theme of "water" in their part of the country. The poem (used by permission) is by Toronto's Poet Laureate, Anne Michaels.

*Rain makes its own night, long mornings with lamps left on.
 ...[4 lines not set to music]
 The hard rain smells like it comes from the earth.
 The human light in our windows, the orange stillness
 of rooms seen from outside. The place we fall to alone,
 falling to sleep. Surrounded by a forest's green assurance,
 the iron gauze of sky and sea,
 while night, the rain, pulls itself down through the trees.*

MASSED TAPESTRY INTERNATIONAL CHOIRS

Da PacemJeffrey Enns

Opening and closing with chant-like simplicity, this sweeping, a cappella work's Latin text translates as "Give peace in our time, O Lord." Jeffrey Enns is a Canadian composer and singer who lives in Ontario.

Yuuyake (Sunset) Takatomi Nobunaga (b. 1971)
 text by Toshiko Takada

The music of this original composition reflects the relaxed beauty of a sunset. The Japanese children's nursery rhyme *Yuuyake koyake* is woven into the piano accompaniment. This is a prayer for a quiet mind resonating with the peaceful sunset.

Spinna minni (Spinning Memories) Mist Þorkeldsdóttir (b. 1960)
 text by Þórarinn Eldjárn

The lyrics of this song are based on the traditional *Völuspá (Prophecy of the Völva)*, the oldest of Nordic poems. *Völuspá* is a part of the *Prose Edda*, which contains poems about the world's creation, and its end in Ragnarrök. According to Nordic mythology, the Three Witches (skapanornir) live under the Tree of Life (Yggdrasill) and determine human destiny. They spin the threads of destiny for every person born on the planet, thus determining their whole course of life.

One With the Wind David O, text by Larissa FastHorse and David O
*Ashley Sheagley, soloist | Catherine Card, Mary Read, Missy Nieto, trio
 Mark McGregor, alto flute*

The Lakota text reflects the struggle of one woman—her fight to survive and to be accepted. In the Lakota way, identity is formed in relationship to others. We witness the interaction with the woman's immediate family, her distant family, and ultimately, her entire community. Not one voice stands alone in *One with the Wind*, and not one woman stands alone in our community.

WELCOME TO OUR MIRA YOUTH MENTORSHIP SINGERS



Twelve young women are singing with the Tapestry International choirs in the grand finale of the Saturday concert as part of Elektra's **Mira Youth Mentorship** program. They've been rehearsing with us in April and for the last three days with our guest choirs. These talented singers were chosen by audition, and each has the support of her high school teacher. It takes a village to make programs like Mira possible. Our thanks to each of these singers, their teachers, and families, for making their participation possible. Thanks also to our generous supporters including many individuals and **Nancy's Very Own Foundation**.

SINGER	SCHOOL (CITY)	TEACHER
Armaeiti Azarkeyvan	Carson Graham (North Vancouver)	Frank Lee
Martina Bohme	Eric Hamber (Vancouver)	Pauline Lo and Les Nerling
Christel Cardenas	Burnaby Central	Carrie Taylor
Maggen Falvo	Windermere (Vancouver)	Andrea Lee
Connie Goetz	Archbishop Carney (Port Coquitlam)	Emmanuella Triveri
Katie Lerner	Carson Graham (North Vancouver)	Frank Lee
Maya Levajac	Burnaby Central	Carrie Taylor
Shela Luspo	Burnaby Central	Carrie Taylor
Mira Mak	West Vancouver	Suzanne Fulton
Barbara Ann Molesworth	New Westminster	Kelly Proznick
Julia Park	Eric Hamber (Vancouver)	Pauline Lo and Les Nerling
Taylor Vaughan	West Vancouver	Suzanne Fulton

Save the Dates!



ELEKTRA UNCORKED
JANUARY 26, 2019
 Pub Food | Fun and Games
 Karaoke | Door prizes | Raffle | Wine Pull



GALA AT THE HART HOUSE
APRIL 6, 2019
 3 Course Meal
 Silent Auction | Live Auction
 Wine Pull | Performance by Elektra

Elektra would like to acknowledge the support of the following generous donors.

This list is complete as of April 10, 2018. If there are any errors or omissions, please contact manager@elektra.ca

Conductor's Circle (\$5000+)

Elisabeth & David Finch
Christine and Elmar Klukas
Sheila Little

Legacy (\$1500 to \$4999)

Maureen Ciarniello
Team TELUS Cares
Haebler Construction Projects
Catherine & Roland Haebler
Charlotte Wall & Sonya Wall
Diane McConnell

From The Heart (\$750 to \$1499)

Elsie Brewis
(in memory of Nigel Brewis)
Rudy & Elizabeth Kerklaan
Lori & Greg Plater

Classic Elektra (\$250 to \$749)

Matthew Baird & Heather Wood
Pam Brewis
(in memory of Ken Myhr)
Judith Coffin
Helen Edwards
Karen Karen Frazer
Maryke Gilmore
Grace Groot
Anonymous
Carol & Barry Lasko
Ann Neumann & Family
Vivian Norbraten
Denise O'Brien & Jim Logan
Sandra & Nick Phillips
Caitlin Robinson
Chris & Patricia Robinson
Sharon Schermbrucker
Harold Schubert
Bernice & Ron Slemko
Elaine Stevens
Telus Communications Inc.
Jill Tipping
Margarethe & Steve Uyesugi
Brian Volhoffer

Child of Grace (up to \$249)

Cornelia Aalhuizen
Robert Adams
Joyce Baker
Sylvia Bamford
Sharon Bandstra
Sue Banning
Joan Bao
Hazel Baxter
Don Bell
Lori Bender
Leo Benne
Rosalyn Best
Joanna Bevaart
Karin Bezurova
Mandeep Bhullar
Rebecca Bittel
Rachael Blaseckie
Andy Braacx
Larry & Maggie Burr
Ann Busay
Beth Busby
Margaret Buttner
Lenia Calico
Bonnie Campbell
Margaret Campbell
Sandra Campbell
Anne Campbell-Stone
Anne Caraan
Neil Carlisle
Pete Chamberlain
Yuen Chan
Catherine Cherneval
Stephanie Ching
Julia Chipman
Holly Choi
Katy Chong
Camille Ciarniello
Diana Clark
Dawn Cochrane
Jane Cochrane
Martin Cody
Sue Contant
Caroline Crocker
Christina Crook
Catherine Crouch
Tyler Cutforth
Dylan Cutler
Maria Dauphinee
Amy Dawson
Betty Dawson
Elaine Dawson
Naomi Dawson
Erin Deighton

Gordon DeVito
Rapti Dietrich & Jess Reade
Karen Dionne
Morna Edmundson
Susan Edwards
Peter Elliot
Glen Embree
Lisa Englehart
Grace Fatkin
Christopher & Suzanne Finch
Patti Fletcher
Dale & Bruce Flexman
Edwin Friesen
Marisa Gaetanne
Karen Gilmore & Rob Van Nus
Andrea Gomez
Anne Graves
(in memory of Len)
Barbara Gregory
Heather Groot
Michael Groot
Norm Groot
Catherine Beddoes-Haebler
Kirstin Hain
Cricket Handler-Canzona
Women's Ensemble
Don Harder & Laurie Townsend
Robert Hasty
Susanna Henderson
Travis Henschel
Wendy Hiebert
Arlene & Tim Higgs
Maureen Hold
Colin & Christine Holyk
Malaika Horswill
Martin Horswill
Marie Claude Houghton
Ling Hu
Tina Hu
Ying Huang
Whitney Hurlbut
Phil Jack
Robert Kaestle
Mee Leng Kee
Danica Kell
Holly Kennedy
Kate Ker
Paul Knickerbocker
& Sharon Hayles
Shelley Koke
Myrna Kozier
Janice Kwon
Catherine Laub
Catherine Lee
Oksana Legebokoff

Antoine Lemieux
Simone Lemieux
Suzanne Lemieux
Jennifer Leong
Irene & Ian Leviton
Jenny Li
Judith Li
Ruth Logan
Katrin Lohuaru
Tom & Connie Longworth
Stephanie Loo
Barbara Lowy
Bianca Luo
Shannon Lythgoe
Barry & Ann Macdonald
Janine & Mike Magaw
Kevin Mah & Jenna Cook
Christy Mahlberg
Anne & Geoff Marsh
Greg Martin-DLCFEWC
Neil Matson
Jessica May
Stephanie Mayer
Rob Mayhew
Eleanor McComb
Jean McComb
Ashley McConnell
Carla McDonald
Elizabeth and Robert McLenehan
Ian McLennan
Wallis McMillan
Sara Menzel
Ron Monk
Sarah Morgan-Silvester
Nancy Mortifee
Wilma Myren
Amrit Nagra
Isabel Nanton
Margot Navellou

Rachel Nelson
Kelsey Nemeth
Allison Noort
Corinne Norbraten
Alicia O'Brien
Martin O'Brien
Ann & Ray Parsons
Tristan Pearson
Alfred Perinbam
Helen Prince
Joey Prsnie
Natalie Pritchard
Kelly Proznick
Heather Pynn
Amanda Randt
Klara Richer
Nick Ringma
Caitlin Robinson
Deirdre Rogers
Kim Rogers
Carmen Rosen
Kate Ross
Don & Ginny Russell
Janinie Ryder
Barbara Sadler Wells
Bradley Sakich
Jillian Schina
Stephanie Schollen
Phyllis Schouten
Carol Schwall
Dana Schwartz
Cassie Shave
Donna Shorting
Janice & Katherine Skipsey
Mark Slay
Kathryn Slemko
Bob & Gwen Smith
Russell & Gillian Smith
Tatiana Solis

Gerald & Ann Soon
Jennifer Spencer
Jude Staffanson
Alison Stillwell
Liz Stockwell
Noreen Szabo
Pamela Tam
Kimberly Taylor
Matt Tipping
Les Toth
Allison Tremblay
Francesca Turner
Jo & Bob Twaites
Pieter Van der Leek
Anieta Van Seters
Maggie Van Seters
William Van Wieren
Ken Vander Horst
Grace Vanderheyden
Marthy Vanranden
Lois Venables
Jill Vivian
Dewey Wagenaar
Patty Wagner
Yi Wang
Norma Wasty
Lea Weir
Carol Westdal
Cathryn Willard
Brenda Wilson
Cathryn Wilson
& Charlie Ker
Alfreda Wong
Edmond Wong
Nancy Wu
Gayle Wylie
Jennifer Young
Karen Yu
Sharon Yuen
Chelsea Zarft

Thanks and Acknowledgements

Tapestry International Committee: Maureen Ciarniello, Catherine Crouch, Corinne Norbraten, Denise O'Brien, Sharon Schermbrucker, and Kathryn Slemko.

Staff and congregations of Christ Church Cathedral, St. John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church, and St. Paul's Anglican Church, Tama Copithorne, Maliaka Horswill Heather Ireland, Sarah Jellicoe, Carol Lasko, Sheila Little, Jessica and Calina May, Genevieve and Galadrial Medina, Ron Slemko, Rosemary Speakman, Risa Takahashi, Leah Weiner, Greg Wirtz, and many other wonderful volunteers.

Sign up to receive the latest news about Elektra. Visit elektra.ca – it only takes a minute!

Consider donating to Elektra in our 31st Season of Excellence!

Elektra's mandate is to inspire and lead in the choral art from through excellence in performance and the creation, exploration and celebration of women's repertoire.

Donors play a crucial role in the life of the choir and Elektra's performances and extensive outreach programs only exist because of their steadfast and ongoing support. Our supporters inspire our singers and give Elektra and other local, national and international choirs an opportunity to create, explore, and celebrate new compositions while also treasuring the classics of the past.

Your gift to Elektra recognizes the importance of choral music in our lives. Please visit elektra.ca to learn more about our choir, the Diane Loomer Commissioning Fund for Elektra Women's Choir and our outreach programs. Your support and encouragement are very much appreciated.

Donations can be made through CanadaHelps at canadahelps.org or by contacting the Elektra office at 604.739.1255 or manager@elektra.ca. If you wish to commit tonight to a year of monthly donations of \$30 or more, please visit the CD table in the lobby. You will take home a CD of your choice as our thank you gift!

(Elektra Women's Choir is a charitable organization. Your \$25 donation entitles you to be a voting member of our society. You will be automatically enrolled as a member. If you do not want to be a member, please tell us. Thank you for your support.)



Morna Edmundson, Artistic Director | Stephen Smith, Accompanist

Board of Directors:

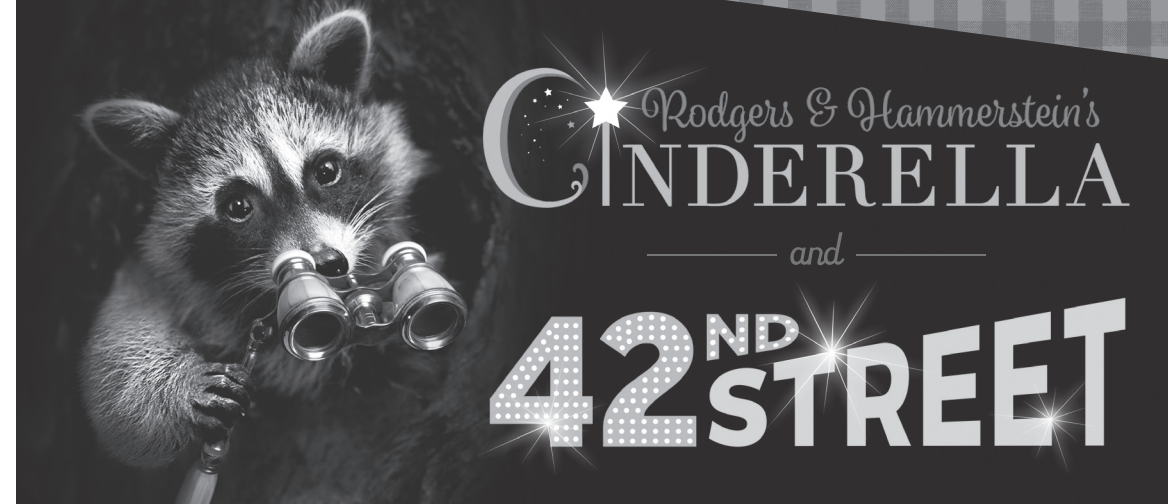
Allison Tremblay, President | Caitlin Robinson, Vice President
Grace Zheng, Treasurer | Danica Kell, Secretary
Anne Campbell-Stone, Paul Knickerbocker, Stephanie Loo,
Denise O'Brien, Russell Smith, Matt Tipping, Directors at Large

Administration:

Bernice Slemko, General Manager | Shannon Lythgoe, Marketing Director
Danica Kell, Social Media Coordinator | Paul Nash, Production Manager
Maggie Van Seters, Coordinator, Celebrating Women Composers Project
Yawen Wang, Bookkeeper

Honorary Patrons: Nancy Argenta; Isabel Bayrakdarian; Jane Coop, C.M.;
Martha Lou Henley, C.M.; Shelagh Rogers, O.C.; Bramwell Tovey, O.C., O.M.

Elektra Women's Choir is a proud member of



JUL 4 to AUG 18 | Malkin Boul in Stanley Park
TICKETS & INFO: call 604.631.2877 or visit tuts.ca



MARKING A MILESTONE?

Consider making a charitable donation designated to support the **commissioning of new music** for women's choir!



We'd be happy to talk to you about the upcoming opportunities and the ways in which your gift can be recognized.

Please call **604.739.1255** or email manager@elektra.ca



HELP US SECURE OUR FUTURE!



Did you know? An innovative way to support Elektra through the **CanadaHelps** website is to donate tax receiptable **Securities** and **Mutual** funds—just visit canadahelps.org. Search or browse for **Elektra Women's Choir** and select the **Donate Securities** tab.

IT'S THAT EASY!