



ELEKTRA

WOMEN'S CHOIR

creating • exploring • celebrating



When the Spring is Born

Music by Women

Morna Edmundson, Artistic Director
Stephen Smith, Pianist

with the singers of the
Mira Youth Mentorship Program

MARCH 9TH, 2019

Shaughnessy Heights United Church





ELEKTRA
WOMEN'S CHOIR
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*An invitation to an
Evening with Elektra*

An elegant dinner concert with soprano **Isabel Bayrakdarian**
in support of Canada's award-winning **Elektra Women's Choir**

Tickets \$250
(includes \$165 tax receipt)
Sunday, April 7, 2019 | 6 pm
Sutton Place Hotel
845 Burrard Street

For tickets and more information
contact the Elektra office at
manager@elektra.ca
or call **604.739.1255**

elektra.ca

CHARLOTTE + SONYA WALL
ARTS FUND



And the winner is... !

Elektra is pleased to announce that the winner of 2019 raffle for a trip for two to Haida Gwaii is **Ms. Laura Plant**—congratulations, Laura! Many thanks for the generous donation of flights and accommodation to our sponsors, **Paul Knickerbocker**, and **Pacific Coastal Airlines**. And thanks to all who bought tickets!

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Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for being here.

Tonight's concert is a celebration of the work of twelve women composers and arrangers, all but one of whom are alive and well and continuing to create new works across Canada and further afield. Those of you who have been following Elektra in recent years know we have made a special project over the past three seasons of finding and promoting the work of women composers.

Tonight we are very pleased to welcome our Featured Composer, Marie-Claire Saindon. A multi-talented musician, Marie-Claire grew up singing with her singer-songwriter mother and playing the violin. She now serves as the Composer-in-Residence of Adleisia Women's Chamber Choir in Montreal. Her biography is on page 6. In her days with us, she will meet some of Vancouver's choral directors and composers, make two videos about her music for treble choir, give a pre-concert talk with me this evening, rehearse with Elektra, and be in the audience to hear three of her works in concert.

Our concert is named for a line in Joni Mitchell's *Little Green*, a song you'll hear in the second half of the program. The evening is filled with variety and undiscovered treasures. As always, the words are a critical part of our performances, and I encourage you to follow what we are singing about in the notes starting on page 8.

You'll see the 12 singers of our 2019 Mira Youth Mentorship Program join us for five pieces. These singers in grades 10-12 landed their spot by audition and the strong recommendation of their teachers. It's been a pleasure to work with them over the past month and we wish them well in their bright singing futures. And in the audience tonight are the singers of Elysian Vocal Ensemble from Seycove Secondary School in North Vancouver. With their teacher Melodie Langevin, they are here through our Girls Sing youth outreach program which encourages local school treble choirs.

One of the best things about music is that it allows us to be in the moment, connected with the past through poems and concepts, and with the memories and thoughts that it evokes differently in each of us. I hope tonight gives you some moments of calm, refreshment, excitement, and reflection. It's what we're here to do.



When the Spring is Born is presented with the generous support of:



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.

When the Spring is Born

Saturday, March 9, 2019, 7:30pm | Shaughnessy Heights United Church
Elektra Women's Choir, Morna Edmundson, Artistic Director
Stephen Smith, Piano
 with the singers of the **Mira Youth Mentorship Program**

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!

Programme

Elektra Women's Choir

- O Virtus Sapientie (from *Lux Lucis*)** Karen P. Thomas
- To Every Thing There is a Season** Ramona Luengen 🍁
- Blinded by a Leafy Crown** Marie-Claire Saindon 🍁
- Joy** Kathleen Allan 🍁
- Liebst du um Schönheit** Clara Schumann
- Quiéreme entera** Ivette Herryman
- Look! Be: leap;** Libby Larsen
- ❖ *Intermission* ❖
- Turlutte acadienne montréalaise** Marie-Claire Saindon 🍁
- Little Green** Joni Mitchell, arr. Kate MacColl 🍁
Commissioned for Elektra Women's Choir by The Haebler Group
- Supla Dzieszma (Lullaby)** Majja Einfeldt
Danica Kell and Stephanie Ching, soloists
- The Birds' Lullaby (BC premiere)** Katerina Gimon 🍁
- A Blessing of Cranes** Abbie Betinis
- Terre-Neuve (world premiere, treble version)** Marie-Claire Saindon 🍁

🍁 denotes Canadian composer

photo: David Cooper



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 90 compositions and arrangements. The choir's recordings on iTunes, YouTube, and CD Baby extend the reach of its repertoire internationally. Elektra's 15th CD, *Silent Night*, was released in October 2018, and features the music of Canadians Kelly-Marie Murphy, Don Macdonald and Sarah Jaysmith. 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. In the summer of 2018, Elektra was one of five choirs from across the country to perform in "...float...", Choral Canada's unique, outdoor immersive performance experience, funded by the Canada Council's New Chapter program.

Soprano 1

Danica Kell, Holly Kennedy*, Ashley McConnell, Janine Magaw, Rachel Nelson, Janet Pritchard, Erika Salas, Jillian Schina

Soprano 2

Bonnie Borin, Ann Busay, Catherine Cheneval, Katrin Lohuaru, Stephanie Mayer, Sharon Schermbucker, Kathryn Slemko*, Kim Taylor, Allison Tremblay, Maggie Van Seters

Alto 1

Amy Dawson*, Susan Edwards, Grace Groot, Kirstin Hain, Shelley Koke, Simone Lemieux, Sheila Little, Stephanie Loo, Alison Stillwell, Patty Wagner, 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, Rosemary Speakman

* 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.

In addition to her work with Elektra, Morna is also the Artistic Director of EnChor, a Vancouver-based, auditioned choir for mature voices.

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.

COMPOSERS AND ARRANGERS



Featured Composer

Marie-Claire Saindon (b. 1984) is a Franco-Ontarian composer based in Montréal. She began creating in high school, where she wrote and produced her first musical. She continued to participate in many collaborations, from choral pieces, to scoring short films and full documentaries, to accompanying dancers, to fiddling in a team of folk musician on a historical steam train.

Ms. Saindon holds a BMus: Composition from the Schulich School of Music (McGill, 2007) and an MMus: Composition—Film and Multimedia music from Université de Montréal (2010).

Winner of multiple composition prizes such as the SOCAN Young Composers' National Awards in the vocal category (2013) and the Ruth Watson Henderson Choral Composition Competition (2018), her choral works are also published with Boosey & Hawkes, Cypress Choral Music, and Alliance Music, Publishers. She currently scores films, composes choral commissions, and is composer-in-residence of the Montréal upper-voice ensemble Adleisia. www.marieclairesaindon.com

Conductor, composer and soprano **Kathleen Allan** (b. 1989) is the Director of Choral Studies and Associate Orchestra Conductor at the Vancouver Academy of Music, Artistic Director of Canzona, Winnipeg's professional baroque choir, and founding co-artistic director of Arkora, a chamber collective dedicated to interdisciplinary performance. She was the 2016 recipient of the Ernest MacMillan Prize in Choral Conducting and in 2015, she made her Asian debut conducting Handel's Messiah and Bach's Christmas Oratorio in Japan. Her compositions have been commissioned and performed throughout the Americas and Europe. She studied composition at UBC and holds a master's in conducting from Yale University.

Composer **Abbie Betinis** (b.1980) writes music called "inventive, richly melodic" (The New York Times) and "superb... whirling, soaring" (Tacoma News Tribune). A 2015 McKnight Artist Fellow, and listed in NPR Music's "100 Composers Under Forty," she has written over 60 commissioned pieces and has been composer-in-residence with The Schubert Club, The Rose Ensemble and The Singers--Minnesota Choral Artists. She lives in Minnesota, where she is adjunct professor of composition at Concordia University-St Paul.

Latvian composer and music educator **Maija Einfeldte** (b. 1939) has received wide international recognition for her chamber music and choral works. She studied in Jānis Ivanovs' composition class at the Latvian State Conservatory, graduating in 1966. In 1997, she was awarded the Latvian Great Music Award. In 1999, she was awarded the Culture Award of the Republic of Latvia, and in 2000, the Copyrights' Infinity Award. In 2002, the composer became an honorary member of the Academy of Science.

Named as one of Canada's 'hot 30 classical musicians under 30' by the Canadian Broadcasting Company; composer, improviser, and vocalist **Katerina Gimon's** (b. 1993) uniquely dynamic, poignant, and eclectic compositional style is rapidly gaining her a reputation as one of the most distinctive emerging voices in contemporary Canadian composition. With music described as "mesmerizing", "fiercely energetic", and "staggering in its beauty and originality", Katerina's compositions have been performed and commissioned by ensembles across Canada, the United States (most notably at Carnegie Hall), and Europe. She is currently based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Ivette Herryman (b.1982) earned her Bachelor's degree in Music Composition from the Higher Institute of Arts (ISA) in her native Cuba and her Master's in Music Composition at Baylor University, in Texas. In 2017, she completed a Master of Music in Music Theory and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Music Composition at Michigan State University (MSU). Her music for solo instruments, chamber groups, large ensembles, electronic media, children, church music, film music, and musical theater have been performed in important concert halls across the Americas, Spain, the Netherlands, and Japan.

Libby Larsen (b. 1950) is one of America's most prolific and most performed living composers. She has created a catalogue of over 500 works spanning virtually every genre from intimate vocal and chamber music to massive orchestral works and over twelve operas. Her music has been praised for its dynamic, deeply inspired, and vigorous contemporary American spirit. Constantly sought after for commissions and premieres by major artists, ensembles and orchestras around the world, Libby Larsen has established a permanent place for her works in the concert repertoire.

Dr. Ramona Luengen (b. 1960) has composed extensively in the choral genre and has been commissioned and recorded by Canada's finest choirs as well as the CBC. Her works have been performed in North America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Japan and broadcast on the national radio stations of Britain, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Sweden. Luengen's opera for young audiences, Naomi's Road, has received over 350 performances, and her 1995 Stabat Mater, premiered by Elektra Women's Choir, was awarded 'Outstanding Choral Composition of the Year' and 'Outstanding Choral Event of the Year' by the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors. Previously on the faculty of the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University for 12 years, she also directed the award-winning Phoenix Chamber Choir from 1995-2012. Luengen has been the Artistic Director of the Amabilis Singers since 2006 and Choir Director at Shaughnessy Heights United Church since 2004.

Kate MacColl (b. 1968) has enjoyed for decades a vibrant and multi-faceted career in music. This is the second time Kate has been asked to arrange a Joni Mitchell song for Elektra, the first being *The Circle Game*, which is published and distributed internationally by Alfred Music, and was featured on Elektra's programme for their concerts at the 2017 World Choral Music Symposium in Barcelona. She was a proud member of Elektra from 2005 until 2017, when she left the ensemble to finish a musical she began writing in 2013; *This Is Now* ran for 6 enthusiastically received shows in June of 2018.

From coffee houses to some of the biggest concert venues in the world, the remarkable career of Canadian singer-songwriter **Joni Mitchell**, CC (b. 1943) is legendary. Drawing from folk, pop, rock, and jazz, Mitchell's songs often reflect social and environmental ideals as well as her feelings about romance, confusion, disillusionment, and joy. She has received many accolades, including nine Grammy Awards. Rolling Stone called her "one of the greatest songwriters ever" and AllMusic has stated, "When the dust settles, Joni Mitchell may stand as the most important and influential female recording artist of the late 20th century".

Clara Schumann (1819-1896) was one of the most prominent and accomplished classical musicians of 19th century Europe. A child prodigy as both a pianist and composer, she took Europe by storm, touring and performing her own compositions at age 20 before turning her attentions to raising seven children and organizing and promoting her husband Robert Schumann's compositional career. When widowed at 38, she supported herself and her family by reviving her touring career. Her works have enjoyed a revival in the past 40 years.

Karen P. Thomas (b. 1957), composer and conductor, is the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Seattle Pro Musica. Her compositions are performed and broadcast throughout the world, by groups such as The Hilliard Ensemble and the Vocal Consort of Brussels. Her works are published by Santa Barbara Music Publishing and on her website, and have been featured at numerous ACDA and AGO conferences. A prize-winning composer, she has received grants from the NEA, The American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, and Meet the Composer, among numerous others.

Text Sources and Selected Translations

O Virtus Sapientiae

text by Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179) (sung in Latin)

O energy of Wisdom!
 You circled, circling,
 encompassing all things
 in one path possessed of life.
 Three wings you have:
 one of them soars on high.
 the second exudes from the earth,
 and the third flutters everywhere.
 Praise to you, as befits you, O Wisdom.

To Every Thing There is a Season

From the Stabat Mater Sequence

When my body dies, may my soul be granted the glory of paradise. *(sung in Latin)*
 Ecclesiastes 3:1-6 *(sung in English)*

Blinded by a Leafy Crown

poem, Leaves by Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

Joy

poem by Sara Teasdale

Liebst du um Schönheit (If You Love for Beauty)

poem by Friedrich Rückert (1788-1866) (sung in German)

If you love for beauty, then do not love me!
 Love the sun, with its golden hair!
 If you love for youth, then do not love me!
 Love the spring, which is young every year!
 If you love for treasure, then do not love me!
 Love the mermaid, who has many shining pearls!
 If you love for love, oh then love me!
 Love me always, as I will always love you!

Quièreme Entera (Love Me Entirely)

poem by Dulce María Loynaz (1902-1997) (sung in Spanish)

If you love me, love me entirely	Love me day,
Not by zones of light and shade.	Love me night.
If you love me, love me black	And dawn in the open window!
And white. And gray, and green	If you love me
and blonde.	Do not cut me short:
And brown.	Love me entirely...
	Or do not love me!

Supla Dziesma (Lullaby)

text: traditional Latvian lullaby (sung in Latvian)

Little mouse rides his squeaky wagonload of sleep
 Little mouse, ride into this home with your wagonload of sleep
 Sleep has been teasing this child, squatting on the threshold
 Mamma, take a birch rod and chase the sleep into the cradle
 Little mouse rides his squeaky wagonload of sleep

The Birds' Lullaby

poem by E. Pauline Johnson

A Blessing of Cranes

poem by Michael Dennis Browne

Terre-Neuve (Newfoundland)

poem by Annick Perrot-Bishop (sung in French)

English translation by Neil B. Bishop

Land
 splattered with shrieks of sun
 with colours of ocean and
 rock
 rust-red the cliff splits
 crackling ice
 a fresh taste of shivering snow
 stirs a shrouded memory
 mingles with the wind
 spirals vibrant with the salt of a joy
 New found

WELCOME TO OUR MIRA YOUTH MENTORSHIP SINGERS

Twelve young women are singing with Elektra this evening as part of Elektra's **Mira Youth Mentorship** program. 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 encouraging their participation. Thanks also to our generous supporters including many individuals and **Nancy's Very Own Foundation**.

SINGER	SCHOOL (CITY)	TEACHER
Heidi Goetz	Archbishop Carney (Port Coquitlam)	Emmanuella Trivieri
Meta Hildebrandt	Cariboo Hill (Burnaby)	Katherine Brown
Victoria Jackson	Carson Graham (N. Van)	Frank Lee
Amelie Jaerkel	Burnaby Central	Carrie Taylor
Emily Kozak	Burnaby Central	Carrie Taylor
Trang Lam	Burnaby Central	Carrie Taylor
Katie Lerner	Carson Graham (N. Van)	Frank Lee
Mira Mak	West Vancouver	Suzanne Fulton
Brodie Sacre	Carson Graham (N. Van)	Frank Lee
Erika Shinabargar	West Vancouver	Suzanne Fulton
Sakura Tsunekawa	West Vancouver	Suzanne Fulton
Callula Voogd	Carson Graham (N. Van)	Frank Lee

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

This list is complete as of February 1st, 2019. If there are any errors or omissions, please contact manager@elektra.ca

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Volunteers play a vital role in the Elektra experience and we are grateful for each and everyone of them!

Shirley Coolidge, Catherine Lee, Jessica, Aliya and Carina May, Genevieve and Galadriel Miedema, Ron Slemko, Leah Weimer, Greg Wirch and the singers in Elektra.

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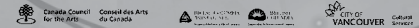
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Artistic Director

Stephen Smith, Pianist

with guest artist, soprano **Suzie LeBlanc**

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