



# News Release

## For Immediate Release

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## CANTORES CELESTES CHOIR EVOKES CITY CALLED HEAVEN

TORONTO, ON For its Spring concert, Cantores Celestes Women's Choir will explore a variety of representations of heaven through song. *City Called Heaven* will be performed on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at Runnymede United Church in Toronto. Under the direction of Kelly Galbraith, the choir will perform music by Baroque composers Baldassare Galuppi, G.B. Bononcini and Johann Hasse; as well as compositions from Michael Torke and Aaron Copland; a rousing selection of African American spirituals; and *Tantum Ergo* and *Alleluia* by Toronto's own Stephanie Martin.

Musicians joining the choir in this celebration are The Emperor String Quartet, organist Matthew Coons and accompanist Ellen Meyer, one of Ontario's most in-demand collaborative pianists. Guest soprano soloist Katherine Napiwotzki will be featured in Hasse's jovial *Laudate Pueri*, while percussionist Malcolm Gould will accompany the choir on a selection of spirituals. A \$1,000 donation will be made to Sistering – an organization serving homeless, marginalized and low-income women in Toronto.

"Hasse and Galuppi both wrote music for the Conservatory of the *Ospedale degli Incurabili* – the same girls orphanage that employed Vivaldi," says Kelly Galbraith, who founded Cantores Celestes in 1989. "We will explore their little known masterpieces – Galuppi's *Dixit Dominus*, written for his 'nightingales' as he called them, as well as Bononcini's *Perla gloria d'adorarvi*."

The title song *City Called Heaven*, a spiritual arranged by Josephine Poelinitz, features a stirring solo by Cantores Celestes soprano Jennifer Harewood-Kokoue. Other energetic spirituals and Gospel songs include *Heaven Somewhere* by Stephen Hatfield, and Clifton J Noble, Jr.'s *Listen to the Angels Shouting* and *Wade in the Jordan River*. This concert's rendition of *Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One* by Healey Willan was arranged by the choir's own Bailey Dugas.

"This music is united according to the heavenly theme of the text," says Galbraith. "However, the selections offer a diverse mixture of colour and sound, from Baroque and plainsong to spirituals and contemporary American, as the choir takes you on a musical journey through heaven."

### Information on Cantores Celestes Spring concert:

When: Saturday, April 18, 2015, 7:30 pm  
Where: Runnymede United Church  
432 Runnymede Road, Toronto  
Admission: \$25.00. No reserved seating.

Contact: 416.236.1522

[www.cantorescelestes.com](http://www.cantorescelestes.com)

<http://www.youtube.com/user/cantorescelestes>

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[twitter.com/Cantores\\_Choir](https://twitter.com/Cantores_Choir)

[twitter.com/Kelly\\_Galbraith](https://twitter.com/Kelly_Galbraith)

### About Cantores Celestes

Cantores Celestes, founded and directed by Kelly Galbraith, is a world-class women's choir from Toronto's west end that has earned a reputation for its diverse repertoire, remarkable blend and sublime sound. Cantores Celestes offers two annual concerts at Runnymede United Church in Toronto, as well as other events across Canada and internationally. Unlike most choirs, Cantores performs most of its repertoire from memory. Formed in 1989, the 55-woman choir has a history of prestigious appearances with well-known Canadian musical artists and is respected for its philanthropy. Cantores Celestes has appeared at Lincoln Centre, on CBC Radio One and Radio 2, as well as the CBC's commercially-released video *Clyde Gilmour, a Celebration in Words and Music*. The choir has recorded music for three films and released six albums. Cantores Celestes relies on enthusiastic audience attendance, ticket sales and program advertising for support rather than on government grants.

### About Katherine Napiwotzki

Katherine Napiwotzki's voice has been described as "tender and powerful, a dynamic combination" (Arshak Andriasov, composer). As a soprano with a passion for concert repertoire and new music, she has worked with composers Ronald Beckett, John Beckwith, Norbert Palej, and Arshak Andriasov.

Recent performances include Dvořák's *Te Deum* with the KW Youth Symphony Orchestra at Centre in the Square, the World Premiere of Andriasov's *Russian Romances* at Gallery 345 in Toronto, and solo performances with Arcady, an ensemble dedicated to Baroque music and the works of Ronald Beckett. Katherine enjoys exploring new languages and has performed the Norwegian music of Edvard Grieg in *An Afternoon of Nordic Song* at the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre. Operatic performances include the role of Barbarina in *Le nozze di Figaro*, First Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* and Suor Valentine in *Les Dialogues des Carmélites*. She studied at the Accademia Europea dell'Opera in Italy and holds a Master of Music in Voice Performance and Vocal Pedagogy from the University of Toronto, studying with Lorna MacDonald.

### About Malcolm Gould

Malcolm Gould (B.Mus, M.A. Musicology) is a Toronto-based drummer, percussionist and music producer with a wide variety of musical interests. Malcolm has played with Peter Togni Trio for many years, performing live in Canada and the U.S., and producing the group's debut CD, *Shimmeree*. In recent years he has backed up a host of Toronto singer-songwriters working in many different styles: Noah Zacharin, Laura Marks, Lynn Harrison, Glen Hornblast, Brian Blain, Robert Davis, Peter Boyd, Joanne Crabtree, Paul Mills, Big Rude Jake, Rick Zolkower (of Mr. Rick and the Biscuits), Andy Griffiths and Son Roberts, among others. During his 25-plus years as a music producer for CBC Radio he has produced many different CBC Radio 2 programs (currently "Canada Live" and "This Is My Music") and a large number of recordings, including Celso Machado's Juno Award-nominated 2007 CD, *Jogo da Vida*.

### About Sistering

At this annual Spring concert, Cantores Celestes will continue its tradition of donating \$1,000 to a worthy charity. To date, the choir has donated more than \$40,000 to local and international communities in need. This concert's donation will go to Sistering – an organization that offers women practical and emotional support through programs that enable them to take greater control over their lives. Guided by the principles of Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression, Sistering works to change social conditions that endanger women's welfare. [www.sistering.org](http://www.sistering.org).

Cantores Celestes Women's Choir

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