



# News Release

**For Immediate Release  
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## **CANTORES CELESTES WOMEN'S CHOIR CELEBRATES SONGS OF THE UNIVERSE**

TORONTO, ON ↓ For its Spring concert, Cantores Celestes Women's Choir will explore Songs of the Universe with a selection of music celebrating universal themes. The performance will take place on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 7:30p.m. at Runnymede United Church in Toronto. Under the direction of Kelly Galbraith, the 50-voiced women's choir will perform music by composers including Ola Gjeilo, Sarah Class and W.A. Mozart.

"Among the themes we will explore is the optimism and confidence in our deeper humanity at the centre Ola Gjeilo's Song of the Universal with lyrics from Walt Whitman's poem of the same name," says Kelly Galbraith, who founded Cantores Celestes in 1989. The choir is excited to bring back Classical Brit Award nominee Class' Symphonie Lumiere, having given the song its North American premiere in 2009. "Similarly, for Sarah Class, music is about feeding the soul and uplifting the spirits."

Scoring with strings, organ and piano is featured in many of the pieces. Musicians joining the choir in this concert are The Emperor String Quartet, organist Matthew Coons and accompanist Ellen Meyer, one of Ontario's most in-demand collaborative pianists.

The choir is thrilled to be performing the Canadian premiere of De Profundis by Russell Robinson. This concert will also mark the world premiere of Sergey Khvoshchinsky's Hymn to Her Hands with lyrics by Maggie Pittman. "Sergey chose us to premiere this piece, written in memory of his mother. It was especially created for Cantores Celestes," says Galbraith. Mozart's Messa in C Major (Sparrow Mass) arranged for women's voices will also receive its Canadian premiere at this concert.

The choir will continue its tradition of giving to charity with a \$1,000 donation in support of bringing a Syrian family to live in Toronto. "Optimism and hope weave their way through this concert, from our music choices to our premieres to our choice of charity," says Galbraith. "Come celebrate with us!"

## **Concert Information**

Saturday, April 23, 2016, 7:30 pm  
Runnymede United Church  
432 Runnymede Road, Toronto  
Admission: \$25.00  
**No reserved seating**

## **About Cantores Celestes Women's Choir**

Concluding its 27<sup>th</sup> season, Cantores Celestes is an auditioned choir that was founded in 1989 by Founder and Artistic Director, Kelly Galbraith. Most recently, Cantores Celestes was the only women's choir invited to sing in the 1000-performer production of R. Murray Schafer's Apocalypsis, for the 2015 Luminato Festival at Toronto's Sony Centre. The members of the choir were thrilled to be part of the mass choir performance celebrating International Women's Day in Avery Fischer Hall at Lincoln Centre on March 10, 2014. Cantores has been invited back to NYC for a solo performance at a downtown Manhattan church. Cantores Celestes has toured extensively in the Maritimes and Ontario, and has been invited to participate in many festivals, including Festival 500 in Newfoundland, Barrie's Colours of Music Festival, and the Toronto Vocal Festival. Cantores Celestes has recorded music for three films and produced six CDs: Wassail!, Bright Shining as the Sun, Love's Pure Light, The Circle Never Ends, Wake Up in the Moonlight Singing and Women of Light. The choir has appeared on CBC Radio One and Radio Two, as well as the commercially released CBC video Clyde Gilmour: A Celebration in Words and Music. The members of Cantores Celestes have, over the years, donated more than \$40,000 to a variety of charities. They will present a concert on Saturday, June 4, 2016 where all of the proceeds go to the Syrian Refugee project.

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