



News Release

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CANTORES CELESTES WOMEN'S CHOIR CELEBRATES THE SEVEN JOYS OF CHRISTMAS

TORONTO, ON For its December concert, Cantores Celestes Women's Choir will explore Christmas music from the twelfth century until today based on ancient texts. *Seven Joys Of Christmas: Carols Ancient and Modern* will be performed on Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at Runnymede United Church in Toronto. Under the direction of Kelly Galbraith, the 50-voice women's choir will sing medieval music and selections from John Rutter's *Dancing Day* and Benjamin Britten's *The Ceremony of Carols*.

"This Christmas concert promises lots of variety and lots of fun," says Kelly Galbraith, who founded Cantores Celestes in 1989. "The rep ranges from meditative, to fun and cheeky to sparkly and glorious. The Britten was the first Christmas piece I conducted for women's voices while a student at Mt. Allison in New Brunswick, so it is quite special to me."

Other program highlights include Lana Walter's *Gaudete! Gaudete!*, Norman Henricks' *O Come Emmanuel* composed for Cantores Celestes, *Christmas Angel* by Corlynn Hanney featuring soloist Jennifer Harewood-Kokoue and Christmas spirituals by Gwyn Arch.

Musicians joining the choir in this celebration are multi-instrumentalists Ben Grossman and the Pope Joans, Jacqueline Goring on harp and accompanist Ellen Meyer, one of Ontario's most in-demand collaborative pianists. A \$1,000 donation will be made to the Outreach Program at Emmanuel Howard Park Church.

"There is something in this program for all tastes," says Galbraith. "The choir loves to sing seasonal music and their joy will be shared with our audience. And with the Pope Joans in the house, there will be many musical surprises."

Information on the Cantores Celestes Christmas concert:

When: Saturday, December 5, 2015, 7:30 pm
Where: Runnymede United Church
432 Runnymede Road, Toronto
Admission: \$25.00. No reserved seating.

Contact: 416.655.7335
www.cantorescelestes.com
<http://www.youtube.com/user/cantorescelestes>
[facebook.com/CantoresCelestes](https://www.facebook.com/CantoresCelestes)
twitter.com/Cantores_Choir
twitter.com/Kelly_Galbraith

About Cantores Celestes Women's Choir

Now in its 26th 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 *Apocalypse*, 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.

About Ben Grossman and the Pope Joans

The Pope Joans are three multi-instrumentalists: Kirk Elliot, Jeff Wilson and Ben Grossman. They are players of hurdy-gurdy, lutes (various), percussion, bagpipes (medieval and renaissance), winds, psalteries, medieval fiddle... and probably a few things that should not be played in polite company.

About Jacqueline Goring (harp)

Ms. Goring began her studies at the Royal Conservatory of Music and she received her Bachelor of Music from the University of Western Ontario. Ms. Goring has played as guest soloist with many choirs and performed concertos with the Toronto Philharmonica and the Huntsville Festival. As part of Trio Resonance, she has performed at concert series in Cornwall, Alexandria and the McMichael Gallery. She has played with a variety of orchestras including Toronto Philharmonica, Hamilton Philharmonic, Orchestra London, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Talisker Players, Opera Hamilton and Opera Kitchener. She played in the pit for musicals including the U.S. tours of *The Music of the Night*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *The Wizard of Oz*, and the Charlottetown Festival's production of *Anne of Green Gables*. Ms. Goring has performed with Diana Krall, Aretha Franklin, Roger Daltrey and John McDermott. Recordings include collaborations with Cantores Celestes, Christopher Lee, Victoria Scholars, Lachan and Toronto Children's Chorus as well as five CDs for the Solitudes/Avalon label.

About the Outreach Program at Emmanuel Howard Park Church

At this annual Christmas 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 be made to the Outreach Program at Emmanuel Howard Park Church in Toronto. This program feeds lunches, snacks and Sunday dinners each week to people in need. It services more than 250 people each week, also providing basic necessities such as socks, underwear and a warm coat or sweater. <http://ehpunitedchurch.ca/outreach/>

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