



News Release

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CANTORES CELESTES WOMEN'S CHOIR PRESENTS ITS FINAL CONCERT AFTER 30 GLORIOUS YEARS!

TORONTO, ON – As **Cantores Celestes** brings 30 years of inspired music-making to a close, the choir, under the leadership of founder and director **Kelly Galbraith**, presents a selection of music chosen from its repertoire over the past three decades.

On Saturday, May 4th, 2018 at 7:30 pm at Runnymede United Church in Toronto, the choir will perform music spanning the centuries, from Giovanni Pergolesi and Gabriel Fauré to contemporary Canadians such as Paul Halley and Ramona Luengen. The program ranges from sacred classics (Pergolesi's Stabat Mater), to charming folk songs (The Kennebecasis River), to traditional Gaelic tunes (The Grey Selchie, A Ghaoth Andeas).

- "It's been an amazing 30 years," says choir director and founder Kelly Galbraith. "Our little choir that began with eight women is now 50 voices strong. We have sung in Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center, and the Sony Centre. We've presented many world and North American premieres, and we've done it with no government grants; just a group of strong and talented women who believe in sharing their song, and who've given over \$60,000 back to the community."
- Unlike most other amateur choirs, Cantores Celestes choristers memorize all of the music they perform, allowing them to leave their scores behind and communicate directly with their audience. This has helped the choir develop a unique sound that has attracted a passionately loyal following. We expect Runnymede United Church to be Standing Room Only for this final concert.

Musicians joining the choir in this concert are Cantores Celestes accompanist **Kate Carver**, **The Emperor Quartet** and organist **Steven Boda**.

The choir will continue its tradition of giving to charity with a \$2,000 donation to The Friars Family "Celebrate" Fund, which aids neighbourhoods experiencing generational poverty in Greater Saint John, New Brunswick.

Concert Information

Saturday, May 4, 2019, 7:30 pm
Runnymede United Church
432 Runnymede Road, Toronto
Admission: \$25.00

Please note: **No reserved seating.** We anticipate this concert will sell out quickly. Please contact a choir member as there may be no remaining tickets to buy at the door.

About Cantores Celestes Women's Choir

Now wrapping up its 30th anniversary season, Cantores Celestes is an auditioned choir founded in 1989 by Artistic Director Kelly Galbraith. Over the years Cantores Celestes has donated more than \$60,000 to charities. Cantores Celestes has appeared on CBC Radio One and Radio Two, and a commercially released CBC video, Clyde Gilmour: A Celebration in Words and Music. The choir has recorded music for three films and released seven CDs: Wassail!, Bright Shining as the Sun, Love's Pure Light, The Circle Never Ends, Wake Up in the Moonlight Singing, Women of Light, and Joyous Light. Cantores Celestes has toured Atlantic Canada and performed throughout western and eastern Ontario. Cantores was invited to participate in Festival 500 in Newfoundland, the opening concerts for Barrie's 2010 Colours of Music Festival, and the 2012 Toronto Vocal Arts Festival. The choir was thrilled to be part of the mass choir performance celebrating International Women's Day in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in March 2014. Cantores Celestes was the only women's choir invited to sing in the thousand performer production of R. Murray Schafer's Apocalypse for the 2015 Luminato Festival at Toronto's Sony Centre, recorded by Analekta and released in 2016. Cantores Celestes performed at Carnegie Hall in May 2018 under the direction of Sir John Rutter.

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