



# *Share Your Song*

with Cantores Celestes

Issue 15d - Christmas 2014

CANTORES CELESTES  
CELEBRATES OVER 25 YEARS OF MAKING MUSIC

## *Giving Back to the Community*

For the last 17 years Cantores Celestes has donated over \$40,000 to more than 35 charities, helping men, women and children in the Toronto area and beyond. The recipient for this concert is Romero House, in the west end of Toronto.

Romero House is actually made up of four houses and a neighbourhood centre in Toronto's West End. It is a non-profit organization and is named after Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador who was martyred for his outspoken defence of human rights. Romero House was founded in 1992 to provide assistance to refugees. Since its inception this organization has provided housing, settlement and advocacy services to over 6,000 individuals and families.

The staff and interns of Romero House create a welcoming community for refugees who have come to Canada for various reasons. The community consists of these staff and interns, the refugees themselves, neighbours and former residents. This sense of community goes beyond offering the refugees a place to stay and heal and grow. They hold seasonal events, monthly social gatherings, summer camp and weekend getaways, activities for kids and a women's support group.

Romero House is rooted in the Christian tradition, but it welcomes and respects refugees from all faith traditions. The staff and interns that live with the refugees in the four houses believe that all of the refugees are their brothers and sisters. They trust the inner strength and courage of these refugees and believe that, if they offer trust instead of suspicion, they will bring out the best in everyone. Simply put, they ask themselves, "What would a good neighbour do?" and act accordingly.



### *Actual Answer on a Music Exam*

"A virtuoso is a musician with real high morals."

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## Featured Composers

Cantores Celestes enjoys singing the works of a variety of composers and here are a few that will be featured at our Christmas Concert.



**Gwyneth Walker** (1947 - ) Widely performed throughout her country, the music of American composer Dr. Gwyneth Walker is beloved by performers and audiences alike for its energy, beauty, reverence, drama, and humour. She is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M. and D.M.A. degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. For nearly 30 years, she lived on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont. She now divides her time between her childhood home town of New Canaan, Connecticut and the musical communities of Sarasota, Florida and Randolph, Vermont. She has written over 300 commissioned works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, chorus, and solo voice.

**Timothy Howard** graduated with honors from the University of Southern California with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree. Dr. Howard also holds degrees from Westminster Choir College and Biola University. He is Director of Music and Organist at Pasadena Presbyterian Church and Lecturer in Music at California State University, Northridge. Dr. Howard's work as composer and arranger and performing collaborator can be heard on guitarist Christopher Parkening's CD *Simple Gifts*, and his string and wind arrangements accompany pop/rock singer Brian Reeves on *Never Looking Back* (Briro Records). Howard's arrangement of "Sourwood Mountain" was written for the Cal State Northridge Women's Chorale and is the most recently published of his compositions and arrangements. Based on a traditional Appalachian folk song, each verse consists of a hilarious rhyming couplet interspersed with a nonsense refrain.



**Randol Alan Bass** (1953 - ) is an American composer and arranger born in Texas. Bass has achieved an impressive array of performances and commissions by prestigious orchestras and choruses throughout the U.S. and Europe, including the Chicago Symphony, the Tanglewood Chorus, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Houston Symphony, the Boston Pops Orchestra and the Dallas Symphony and Chorus. Works by Randol Bass include Holiday and Pops selections as well as general-purpose compositions and arrangements for

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