



# Share Your Song

with Cantores Celestes  
Issue 14d - Spring 2014

CANTORES CELESTES  
CELEBRATES OVER 25 YEARS OF MAKING MUSIC

## Featured Composers

The composers featured in this, our 25th Anniversary Concert, are all composers we have used before, some of them more than once. Featured here are Claudio Monteverdi, Benjamin Britten and Paul Halley.



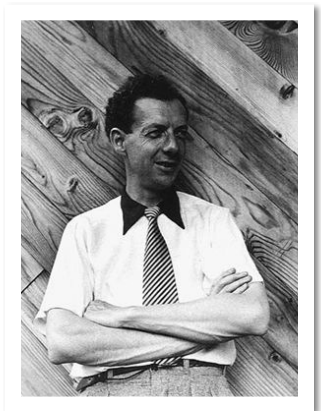
**Claudio Monteverdi (Baptized 1567, died November 29, 1643)** was the greatest of the late Italian Renaissance composers. He revolutionized music both of the theatre and the Church. In 1613, Monteverdi was appointed Master of the Music at St. Mark's, where he remained until he died in 1643. Even though he had not been primarily a church musician, he took his duties as Master of the Music very seriously. He insisted on daily practices, hired new assistants and wrote much of the Church music. During this time, his letters revealed that fulfilled, honoured and well paid.

We first performed this delightful "O Beatae Viae" in 1989 and then again in 2000 and we are excited to be performing it again tonight.

**Benjamin Britten** (1913 - 1976) is considered to be the greatest British musical genius since Purcell. He felt that the human voice gave him a special source of inspiration and this inspiration showed in all of his works, from operas like Peter Grimes and Death in Venice to song cycles to massive choral works.

As war loomed over England, Britten, a pacifist, left his home and spent the next four years working in Canada and the United States. He moved back to England, seduced by the poetry of George Crabbe. He continued composing after a heart attack in 1971 up to his death in 1976.

We are performing his *Missa Brevis in D*, which was also performed in 1989 at Cantores Celestes' first concert. It can be heard on our CD, *Bright Shining as the Sun*.



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## Featured Composers, cont'd



**Paul Halley (born 1952)**, also born in England but moved to Canada as a child, where he studied piano, organ and singing in Ottawa. He has worked around the world. He taught for two years in Jamaica and studied in Victoria, B.C. He served for thirteen years as the organist and choirmaster at the Cathedral of St. John in New York, where he left his mark transforming the music programme. At the same time he was a principal member of the Paul Winter Consort and earned five Grammy Awards.

He moved to Nova Scotia in 2007 where he served as music director for three historic and venerable institutions in Halifax. "Compositions have been commissioned, performed and licensed by many notable artists and organizations including Sony Entertainment, Windham Hill/BMG Music...Canadian Brass... and CBC.

We are performing two of his pieces at our Spring Concert: *Untravelled Worlds* and *Freedom Trilogy*. We have sung both of these pieces before with great success. *Untravelled Worlds* is Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem *Ulysses* which speaks of the love of life and the struggle "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield!"

*Freedom Trilogy* is a mix of a Kyrie, Halleluya! Pelo tsa rona, Siyahamba and Amazing Grace and is a joyful and reverent celebration of freedom.

## Thank you to our Wonderful Sponsors

We could not put on the concerts that we do without our sponsors. The money raised helps to pay our rent and insurance, the rights to the music, the scores and our wonderful musicians. We believe in these sponsors as much as they believe in us and we ask that you patronize them.

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### Actual Answer on a Music Exam



"Refrain means don't do it. A refrain in music is the part you'd better not try to sing."

### Share Your Song

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