



GOD SQUAD PRESENTS

LITANY OF ST JOSEPH



MARCH 17, 2025 - 7PM
JACK SINGER CONCERT HALL
225 8 AVE SE, CALGARY, AB



HEROIC MEN
POWERED BY GOD SQUAD, CANADA



Concert Program

ST. VINCENT LIEM CHOIR

Giu-se Trong Xóm Nhỏ

Nguyễn khắc Tuấn
(1930-2009)

SAINTE-FAMILLE CHURCH CHOIR

Agnus Dei

G. Bizet
(1838-1875)

Saint Esprit

D. Mwana
(b.1986)

Medley Arrangement

Various

NIGERIAN VATICAN CHOIR

Laudate Dominum

J. Berthier
(1923-1994)

Olisa

J. Nnam
(b.1965)

BISHOP MCNALLY HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

Northern Lights

O. Gjeilo
(b.1978)

As the Ship Went Down

Woodpigeon

ST. HILDEGARD SOCIETY

Salve Regina *

M. Kramarz
(b.1987)

Ubi Caritas

O. Gjeilo
(b.1978)

MICHELLE TODD

Ave Maria

V. Vavilov
(1925-1973)

The Lord's Prayer

C. Eaton
(b.1958)

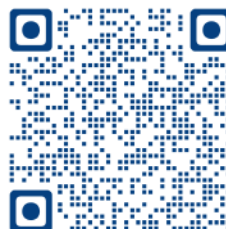
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LITANY OF ST JOSEPH ORCHESTRA AND MASS CHOIR

*Litany of St Joseph **

1. Prelude
2. Kyrie eleison
3. Pater de Caelis
4. Sancta Maria, Sancta Joseph
5. Proles David Inclyta
6. Joseph Justissime
7. Speculum Patientiae
8. Patrone Exsulum
9. Terror Daemonum
10. Agnus Dei
11. Responsorium
12. Preces
13. Amen

C. Foggini
(b.1981)





ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary



Message from the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings of peace!

It is with great joy and gratitude that I welcome you to this extraordinary evening of sacred music. *The Litany of St. Joseph in Song: A Monumental Concert Event* is an example of how the arts are a means of drawing us closer to God. Music is a profound way in which we express our faith, our hearts in prayer and are united through these artistic means in experiencing ourselves as the Body of Christ.

Tonight, we will enjoy the fruits of a remarkable collaboration, as choirs from across our Diocese join their voices in praise. This newly commissioned Litany of St. Joseph in Song is a gift to our Church, unveiled in this **Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope**. May it inspire greater devotion to St. Joseph, the humble and faithful guardian of the Church.

I extend my deepest thanks to all who have made this event possible—God Squad Canada, the composer Carlos Foggin, the musicians, the benefactors, and each one of you who have gathered here in faith. May this evening's music stir our souls, deepen our love for Christ, and strengthen our commitment to walking together as a people of hope.

Wishing you abundant blessings and graces this Jubilee year!

St. Joseph, intercede for us.

Sincerely in Christ,

✠ William T. McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary



HEROIC MEN
POWERED BY GOD SQUAD, CANADA



A WARM WELCOME AND A HEARTFELT THANK YOU!



On behalf of the board of God Squad Canada, we are overjoyed to welcome you to this special evening! Your presence here fills us with gratitude as we celebrate a project born from faith, inspiration, and the unwavering patronage of St. Joseph.

This concert marks the culmination of a four-year journey, a journey that began in the summer of 2020 with a spark ignited by the Holy Spirit and a visit to our new shrine. Inspired by the powerful resonance of sung prayer, particularly the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, we embarked on a mission to commission the Litany of St. Joseph in song. St. Joseph has been a constant guide and intercessor for God Squad Canada since our inception, and this musical offering is our way of honoring his vital role, not only in our ministry, but also for Canada and the entire Church.

The timing of this project felt divinely inspired, especially with Pope Francis' declaration of the Year of St. Joseph, which beautifully affirmed the importance of reflecting on this remarkable man's life and significance. It felt like a gentle nudge from above, encouraging us forward. Tonight, we are thrilled to finally share this beautiful work with you, and we have hopes of creating a video to share its beauty with the universal church.

Our deepest prayer is that this concert will bring our diocese together as one united family, celebrating St. Joseph in song. We are committed to reaching men across the Diocese of Calgary, and indeed, across Canada and North America, helping them to discern and embrace God's calling in their lives. We believe that St. Joseph, as a model of faith and obedience, is a powerful example for men seeking to live out their vocations.

God Squad Canada Society gives thanks for this evening, made possible by the incredible generosity and talent of so many. We extend our deepest gratitude to all the artists who are sharing their gifts with us tonight, our sponsors whose support makes events like this possible, and our dedicated mission partners and volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes. A very special thank you goes out to Carlos Foggin for his vision and willingness to bring this commissioned piece to life – we are so excited to experience it with you all.

We hope that this evening will be a blessing to you, and that this sung prayer will become a part of your own spiritual journey and Catholic heritage. Thank you for joining us in honoring St. Joseph and supporting the mission of God Squad Canada. Please continue to pray for us as we strive to fulfill the work God has set before us.

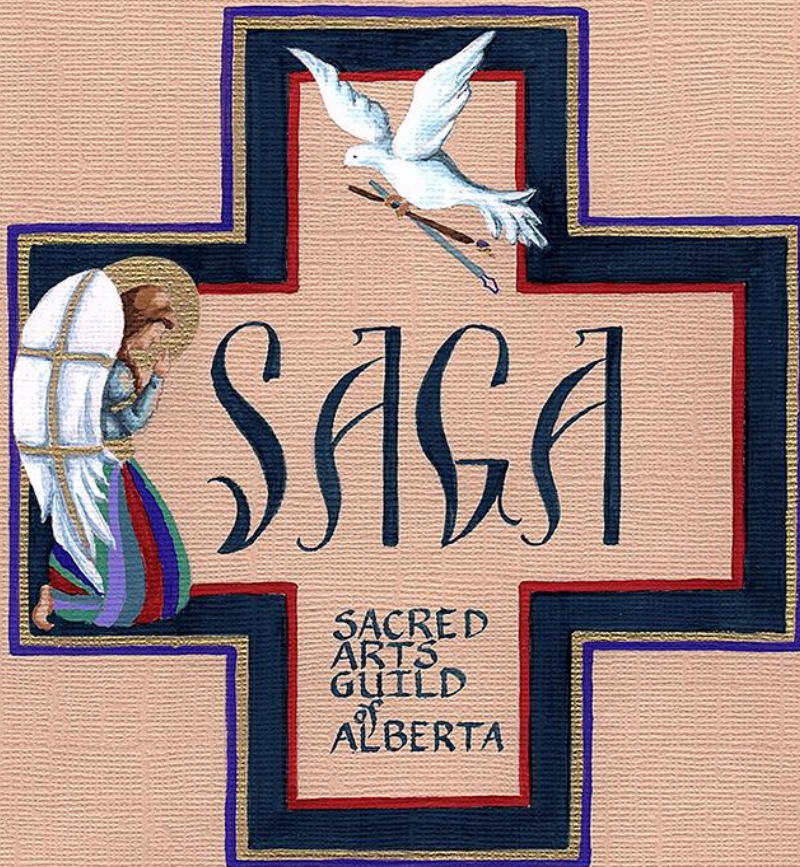
Sincerely,
The Board of God Squad Canada





TONY RINO - EMCEE

A relentless optimist, Tony Rino is an entertainer, fundraiser and operatic singer. He performed with the Calgary Opera chorus and sang anthems for the Calgary Flames for eight seasons. He has appeared at hundreds of events in support of many causes. Tony's recordings include classic Italian, sacred and Christmas songs and are available on most streaming services. A member of the music ministry at Calgary's Saint Michael Catholic Community, Tony is also an award-winning communications professional with a Master of Arts in Communications and is above all a proud husband, father and grandfather.



The Sacred Arts Guild of Alberta is a community of artists and others who are interested in the study, preservation, and renewal of traditional methods for creating liturgical and sacred art in the Christian tradition. We organize workshops, open studios, sacred art talks, art and architecture walks, and sacred art exhibits.

The Sacred Arts Guild of Alberta has an informative web site at www.sacredartsguildofalberta.com and can be reached by e-mail at SacredArtsGuildofAlberta@gmail.com



GIÁO XỨ THÁNH VINH SON LIÊM | CA ĐOÀN TỔNG HỢP - ST. VINCENT LIEM CHOIR

Established in 1985 by Vietnamese Boat People, St. Vinh Sn Liêm Church is the first and only Vietnamese Catholic parish in Calgary. Today's ensemble unites six parish choirs: Trm Hng (1980), Vinh Sn Liêm (1989), Nim Tin (2001), La Vang (2017), Thiu Nhi (2022), and Tông Tr (2022).

Devoted to preserving and promoting Vietnamese Catholic musical heritage, our choirs uphold the parish's four-decade legacy with hymns rooted in our community's spiritual and cultural traditions.



Giu-se Trong Xóm Nhỏ (Joseph from the Small Hamlet) - Phạm Đình Nhu & Nguyễn Khắc Tuần (1930-2009)

Nguyễn Khắc Tuần pioneered Vietnamese sacred music, writing numerous beloved hymns. In collaboration with Fr. John Phạm Đình Nhu, he composed *Giu-se Trong Xóm Nhỏ*, which lyrically portrays the humility, devotion, and unwavering faith of St. Joseph. This hymn also underscores St. Joseph's protective role in the Holy Family. Its evocative melody and poetic text invite us to reflect on his quiet strength and steadfast trust in God's providence.

Chorus:

*Giu-se trong xóm nhỏ khó nghèo thuở xưa,
Miền Na-za-reth Thánh Gia Người vui sống.
Nêu gương cho tất cả gia đình cần lao
Tình yêu tha thiết với cảnh đời đơn nghèo.*

Verse 1

*Cho người cha hết sức yêu mến tận tình
Biết nêu gương sáng chốn gia đình.
Dù bao phong trần long được luôn sướng vui
Vững tay đưa thuyền qua sóng đời.*

Verse 2

*Cho người thân mẫu giữ hạnh phúc gia đình,
Sống vui trong chí hướng trung thành.
Nhiệt tâm giáo dục đoàn trẻ thơ dẫu yêu
Lớn lên trong tình yêu Chúa nhiều.*

Verse 3

*Cho đoàn thơ ấu biết tôn kính vâng lời,
Biết noi gương mến Chúa yêu người.
Hồn luôn giữ gìn được màu hoa thánh ân
Xứng nên ngôi đền Chúa Thánh Thân*

Chorus:

*Joseph, in a small hamlet, long ago,
In Nazareth, he lived with joy and faith.
Becoming a role model for all families,
Through love in all walks of life.*

Verse 1

*For all fathers to always love deeply,
Guiding their families righteously.
In storms, their hearts remain at peace
Leading them through life's shifting seas.*

Verse 2

*For all mothers preserving home's embrace
Living in joy with steadfast grace.
With zeal, teach our dear children,
To grow in God's love.*

Verse 3

*For all the youth, obedient and kind,
To follow His path and love others.
Their souls adorned with holy grace,
A temple where the spirit may cultivate.*





SAINTE-FAMILLE CHURCH CHOIR

The Sainte-Famille Choir, a not-for-profit music group active since 2015, welcomes people from diverse backgrounds who share the Catholic faith. We create opportunities for collaboration, engaging Calgary's French-speaking community through choral music. Driven by the belief that singing is a form of prayer, we bring people together every Sunday and in concerts throughout the year. Our membership is open to choirs, businesses, institutions, and individuals alike.

We have performed at festivals including One Rock and the City of Calgary's Black History Month celebration, receiving recognition for our contribution to the Church and Calgary's French community. Our repertoire spans classical, traditional, and folkloric styles, and we proudly perform in more than ten languages.

Tonight's performance features Paul Kolodziejczyk on classical guitar, Pierre Paul Bugeaud on bass guitar, Olivier Lampron on piano, and Gauthier Djeukam on djembe. The choir is led by Yannick Tchouptang; Fallone Tanze and Marina Tchouptang handle administration.

Agnus Dei - Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

Renowned for his opera *Carmen*, Georges Bizet was a leading French composer of the Romantic era.

The *Agnus Dei* melody derives from the *Intermezzo*, the second movement of Bizet's *L'Arlésienne Suite No. 2*. Originally incidental music for a play of the same name, it later gained its sacred text through French composer Ernest Guiraud (1837–1892), one of Bizet's close collaborators.

Saint Esprit - Dena Mwana (b.1986)

Dena Mwana is a gospel singer and composer originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). *Saint Esprit* was released as a single by Mwana in 2018.

The piece expresses a deep yearning for the Holy Spirit's presence and guidance. The lyrics are in French and convey a heartfelt plea for spiritual renewal and empowerment. Below are a condensed version of the lyrics.

*L'Esprit de vérité nous conduit dans la vérité et révèle la gloire du Père et du Fils.
Quand Il descend, tout s'arrête, l'atmosphère change, et un transfert entre ciel et terre s'opère.*

Le Saint-Esprit guérit, renouvelle et transforme. Les maladies s'enfuient, les aveugles voient, les paralytiques sautent de joie, les stériles enfantent, et les sourds entendent, tout par Sa puissance.

Esprit de Dieu, souffle en nous, renouvelle Ton Église. Nous proclamons Ton action et déclarons que Tu es parmi nous. Alléluia!

*The Spirit of truth guides us in truth and reveals the glory of the Father and the Son.
When He comes, everything stops, the atmosphere changes, and a transfer between heaven and earth takes place.*

The Holy Spirit heals, renews, and transforms. Diseases flee, the blind see, the paralyzed leap for joy, the barren give birth, and the deaf hear—all by His power.

Spirit of God, breathe in us, renew Your Church. We proclaim Your work and declare that You are among us. Alleluia!

Medley Arrangement - Various Composer; arranged by V.&H. De Souza

This collection of worship songs, composed by various artists, was arranged by Viviane and Hillary De Souza. The medley proclaims God's power, singularity, and unwavering goodness.



THE BLESSED IWENE, NIGERIAN IGBO CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CALGARY



The Blessed Iwene Nigerian Igbo Catholic Community is a thriving group of devoted Catholics from Eastern Nigeria and beyond who share Igbo heritage and language. Formally recognized in 2011 as a worshipping community in the Diocese of Calgary, members meet for Mass on the first Sunday of each month at St. Thomas More Catholic Parish in northeast Calgary.

Affectionately called The Vatican Choir, our volunteer ensemble unites singers from various backgrounds—both professional and amateur. Praised across Calgary and beyond, our choir uplifts worship with its stirring and harmonious performances.

Laudate Dominum - Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

French liturgical composer Jacques Berthier is renowned for creating much of the music used at Taizé. Over two decades, he composed 232 songs in 20 languages, many of which are performed widely around the globe today.

Laudate Dominum exemplifies the Taizé style, blending a repeated ostinato chant with interwoven verses. This repetition encourages a meditative, prayerful atmosphere. Tonight's rendition will include English, French, and Latin text.

Olisa - Sir Jude Chika Nnam (b. 1965)

Known as “the Ancestor,” Sir Jude Chika Nnam is a Nigerian composer and pianist who has significantly shaped modern gospel music, particularly in Catholic communities across and beyond Africa. He has produced thousands of original works and arrangements in numerous languages, showcasing his remarkable versatility.

Sung in Igbo, this deeply reverent hymn calls believers to praise (kele) and honor (jee jaa ya mma) God for His glory, righteousness, and faithfulness. It affirms His protective sovereignty, celebrating the One who watches over and shields His people.

Its lyrics highlight God's sacrificial love through Christ's redeeming death on the Cross, using poetic images like “Ogba aka eje ogu” (mighty warrior) and “Agu n'eché mba” (protector). Celebrating God's sovereign care and ever-multiplying blessings, the piece concludes with a heartfelt summons to offer thanks and wholehearted worship.





BISHOP MCNALLY HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

Composed of Grade 11 and 12 students, the BMHS Chamber Choir sings at school Masses, events, and community festivals. Their performances have taken them across Canada and the United States, and they are currently preparing to appear in Los Angeles and Disneyland this April.

Northern Lights - Ola Gjeilo (b.1978)

Norwegian composer and pianist Ola Gjeilo is celebrated for his choral, piano, and wind ensemble works. A Juilliard graduate, he currently resides in Manhattan.

According to Gjeilo, *Northern Lights* explores the idea of a “terrible, powerful beauty,” hidden beneath a serene musical surface. Inspired by a Christmas view near Oslo, he was struck by how this awe-inspiring mystery mirrors the aurora borealis—one of nature’s most mesmerizing displays, once steeped in superstition and wonder.

*Pulchra es amica mea, suavis et decora filia
Jerusalem. Pulchra es amica mea, suavis et
decora sicut Jerusalem. Terribilis ut castrorum
acies ordinata. Averte oculos tuos a me, quia
ipsi me avolare fecerunt.*

*Thou art beautiful, O my love, sweet and comely
daughter of Jerusalem. Thou art beautiful, O my
love, sweet and comely as Jerusalem. Terrible as an
army set in array. Turn away thine eyes from me, for
they have made me flee away.*

As the Ship Went Down - Woodpigeon, arranged by George Chung (1986)

Calgary-based indie-folk band Woodpigeon originally penned this reflective piece, weaving themes of love, loss, and memory. Nostalgic lyrics evoke a bittersweet parting, likened to a sinking ship, suggesting the finality of a past love or an irretrievable moment in time.

George Chung’s dynamic choral arrangement employs both polyphony and canon, adding depth and richness to this haunting folk melody.



THE ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHAPLAINCY (SFXC) CHOIR - THE ST HILDEGARD SOCIETY



SFXC is a Catholic young-adult ministry based at St. Mary's Cathedral. It serves university students, young professionals, and married couples, striving to develop future parish leaders, clergy, and religious in our diocese.

Established in 2019, the St. Hildegard Society mentors young vocalists in liturgical music, emphasizing chant, polyphony, and choral conducting. Tonight's soloist is Elizabeth Woodard, and the choir is led by Maryna Szojka and Nathaniel DeMong.

Salve Regina - Mariusz Kramarz (b. 1987)

Composed in 2020 by Polish composer Mariusz Kramarz—renowned for his sacred and folk works—Salve Regina made its debut at the Musica Divina festival, performed by the Cracow Baroque Consort and Scottish soprano Carine Tinney. This concert marks the piece's North American premiere.

Salve Regina (Hail, Holy Queen) is a beloved Marian prayer, customarily recited at the end of the Rosary. In this composition, a soaring soprano line interweaves with the choir, building to a dramatic climax at the final invocation—"O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary"—then returns to the gentle opening, echoing the plea of "Hail, Holy Queen... to thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve."

*Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiae,
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve
Ad te clamamus exsules filii Hevæ
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle.*

*Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears*

*Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos
misericordes oculos ad nos converte;
Et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.*

*Turn then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this, our exile, show
unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

Ubi Caritas - Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Reflecting on his *Ubi Caritas*, Gjeilo recalls first singing Maurice Duruflé's setting in high school, calling it "the perfect a cappella piece." Though Duruflé incorporated traditional chant verbatim, Gjeilo used chant as broader inspiration in his own composition.

Ubi Caritas reflects St. Joseph's quiet strength and unwavering devotion, reminding us that where charity and love prevail, God abides.

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.*

*Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.*





MICHELLE TODD

Michelle Todd is an award-winning soprano and actress who is critically acclaimed in Art Song, Oratorio, Musicals, Plays and contemporary chamber music. Internationally she has been soloist in major venues in Europe including the Royal Albert Hall, UK, France, Denmark, Japan, India, United Arab Emirates, Carnegie Hall, USA, and was profiled for Bravo! Television. She has represented Canada twice at the Cantai Festival in Taiwan and presented more than 40 Canadian world premieres, many with Calgary's Ensemble Resonance. She has performed as soloist with Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and many of Calgary's leading instrumental ensembles.

Appearances as an actress include numerous shows in London's West End, Canada's Shaw Festival, Stage West, Edmonton Citadel Theatre, and her recent debut in Hamburg, Germany.

For the music ministry Franciscan and Friends, she performed in churches and prisons. She resides in the Bow Valley and sings with St Mary's Church choir in Banff.

Ave Maria - Vladimir Vavilov (1925-1973); attributed to Giulio Caccini

Often erroneously credited to Giulio Caccini (1551–1618), this Ave Maria was composed by Russian guitarist Vladimir Vavilov, who frequently attributed his own works to earlier composers—possibly to capture wider attention for his music.

Vavilov composed his *Ave Maria* in 1970, labeling it “Anonymous” on his own recording. Written in a vocalise style, it gained widespread fame through numerous recordings, including Michelle Todd's album *Grace Notes*.

The Lord's Prayer - Christopher Eaton (b. 1958); arranged by Noël Tredinnick (b. 1949)

Christopher Eaton is a British contemporary Christian singer-songwriter whose work has been recorded by Sir Cliff Richard, Janet Jackson, Donna Summer, Vince Gill, Keith Urban, and more. Over a dozen of his compositions topped pop and CCM charts in the UK and U.S., with many emerging as enduring Christmas and Christian standards.

Noël Tredinnick is an internationally acclaimed British conductor, composer, arranger, organist, lecturer, broadcaster, and worship leader. A longtime Professor of Conducting and Academic Studies at London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama, he originally arranged Chris Eaton's The Lord's Prayer for soloist, choir, and orchestra. Michelle Todd performed his solo arrangement on a concert tour in France.





CARLOS FOGGIN

Awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for outstanding service to the Province in the field of arts and culture and expanding the reach of the arts in Alberta in 2022, and recognized with a Alberta Emerging Artist Award by the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta in 2020, Carlos Foggin is the music director & founder of the Rocky Mountain Symphony Orchestra, and has conducted the ensemble since its inception in 2016.

In February 2025, he was honoured with the Professional Artist Award at the Mayor's Night of the Arts (Airdrie, AB). In 2024, the RMSO was honoured to be named the "Community Ensemble of the Year" at the 2024 YYCMusicAwards (Calgary, AB).

Mr. Foggin is a Fellow of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, only the 100th organist to be recognized with the Society's highest honour since 1909.

As a pianist, Mr Foggin has performed alongside notable popular acts, Il Divo, Michael Bublé, Josh Groban, and The Canadian Tenors, to name a few. He has arranged music for and performed with British Military Bands

including the Band of the Scots Guards and the Band of the Royal Parachute Regiment.

In addition to his work as a soloist, Carlos has been highly praised for a nuanced, fluid approach to collaboration gleaned from years of innovative partnership and performance. Equally comfortable with both singers and instrumentalists, he is highly sought after as a chamber music and opera coach. His students have successfully auditioned into opera companies, Canadian and U.S. orchestras, as well as university and conservatory music programs.

He maintains a small private studio in the Calgary area. He is also a busy adjudicator in the fields of piano, organ, composition, choral, orchestra, and band.

Litany of St Joseph - Carlos Foggin (1981)

In 1624, St. Joseph was declared the Patron Saint of Canada, a title that has shaped our nation's spiritual and cultural identity for over four centuries. The Litany of St. Joseph commemorates this milestone through a multi-movement work that fuses ancient traditions with a distinctly Canadian perspective. Scored for orchestra, chorus, four operatic soloists, and organ, this composition has offered me an opportunity to meditate on faith, heritage, and unity.

A born-and-raised Albertan, raised in the foothills of the Rockies, the soundscape reflects the geography of our land and my experience living in this beautiful corner of the world. I've tried to weave a tapestry of sound that captures the essence of rolling hills and gentle rivers, the heat of our summers, the harshness of winter, and the overwhelming majesty of the Rocky Mountains themselves. Mountains have long been regarded as 'closer to God,' evoking awe and reverence in those who stand at their summits. This sense of transcendence aligns with Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati's concept of Verso l'Alto—"toward the heights"—which symbolizes a striving toward the divine and the elevation of the spirit. Anyone who has experienced the vastness from a mountaintop can understand the call to reach higher, both physically and spiritually.

The entire work is sung in Latin, the universal language of the Catholic Church for thousands of years. The text follows the revised Litany of St. Joseph, which incorporates the seven new invocations added by Pope Francis in 2021.

The Music



The piece is divided into 13 movements—an instrumental prelude and 12 sections of text, each section treated with a slight variation on a musical idea, all inspired by the centuries-old melodies that comprise the plainsong version of the litany. The 13 movements of *The Litany of St. Joseph* symbolize the 13 modern-day provinces and territories of Canada. However, we must remember that the lines delineating territory are a modern convention. For thousands of years, territories were demarcated by the landscape, rivers, and forests. Through the entire work, the drumming patterns in the timpani plays an important role, representing the ongoing journey of reconciliation. The hypnotic sounds of the drums lends a crucial voice representing the our brothers and sisters who have not been always been privileged to have their voices heard.

The prelude to *The Litany of St. Joseph* begins, fittingly, with the timpani, followed by a direct quote the of the Introit to the Mass of the Holy Family, widely regarded as the first music ever composed in Canada. It is first quoted in the bells, interrupted by the solo oboe intoning the chant for the Ave Maria. The introit then returns in its entirety, played by a plaintive solo cello, the instrument regarded to be most like the human voice. Several well-known Gregorian chant themes —familiar to all the faithful—intertwine through the entire work, including Ave Maria, Pater Noster, and the Easter sequence *Victimae Paschali Laudes*. These chant incipits, presented in subtle variations, guide the listener into deep thought and prayer, setting the tone for the spiritual journey ahead. Following the introduction, the timpani returns, where it is joined by the grand organ in a dramatic crescendo, ultimately leading to a bold declamation of *Kyrie Eleison* in the Trombones and Organ.

The piece begins in, and often retreats to, the deepest registers of the orchestra. The double basses and cellos provide a rich foundation, bolstered by the ethereal contrabassoon. In moments of even greater gravity, the organ's largest pipes —some stretching 32 feet in length—deliver a deep, resonant rumble that is felt more than heard. These deep sonorities symbolize St. Joseph's unwavering faith and his quiet, humble role as the steadfast head of the Holy Family. Most of the time, you can feel it more than hear it. Other times, the organ erupts in bursts of righteous anger, defending the church and the world.

Pope Benedict XVI, in 2006, said the following about the importance of the organ in worship: "The organ has always been considered, and rightly so, the king of musical instruments, because it takes up all the sounds of creation and gives resonance to the fullness of human sentiments, from joy to sadness, from praise to lamentation. By transcending the merely human sphere, as all music of quality does, it evokes the divine. The organ's great range of timbre, from piano through to a thundering fortissimo, makes it an instrument superior to all others. It is capable of echoing and expressing all the experiences of human life. The manifold possibilities of the organ in some way remind us of the immensity and the magnificence of God."

The 13 movements vary in length, from nearly 8 minutes to only a few seconds. The 9th movement, *Terror of Demons*, stands out for its dramatic portrayal of demonic chaos. The orchestra erupts with frenetic energy, reflecting a world in turmoil, only to be interrupted by the commanding and dominating presence of the organ. This powerful clash between chaos and divine order mirrors the spiritual battle between fear and faith, with St. Joseph depicted as the protector who drives away evil. A grand fugue concludes the litany, leading to the final Amen. This powerful ending contrasts the contrapuntal style of the Baroque with modern sounds and harmonies, bringing the work to a triumphant close.

Symbolism

For those interested in musical symbolism, there is a striking tonal shift to E-flat major for only two words in the entire litany: *Sancte Trinitas*. E-flat major, with its three flats, naturally aligns with the Holy Trinity. Additionally, the vocal sections divide into three lines each, creating a total of 12 independent vocal lines—echoing the 12 apostles, 12 Tribes of Israel, and the 12 stars in Our Lady's crown—and symbolizing the Trinity's presence within each of us. This brief yet potent musical moment highlights the deep theological connections woven throughout the work. Another highly symbolic moment occurs in the bells, which chime 25 times, combining the 13 provinces/territories and the 12 (Apostles, Tribes of Israel, Star) into 25...the number of years in a Jubilee.

This premiere marks 400 years of St. Joseph's patronage, standing as a testament to the enduring power of sacred music in uniting communities, inspiring reflection, and elevating the spirit.



*Kyrie, eléison.
Christe, eléison.
Kyrie, eléison.
Christe, áudio nos.*

*Kyrie, eleison.
Christe, eleison.
Kyrie, eleison.
Christe, exáudi nos.*

*Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, hear us.*

*Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, graciously hear us.*

*Pater de caelis, Deus, miserére nobis.
Fili, Redemptor mundi Deus, miserére nobis.
Spiritus Sancte Deus, miserére nobis.
Sancta Trinitas, unus Deus, miserére nobis.*

*God, the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.*

*Sancta María, ora pro nobis.
Sancte Joseph, ora pro nobis.
Proles David ínclyta, ora pro nobis.
Lumen Patriarchárum, ora pro nobis.
Dei Genetrícis Sponse, ora pro nobis.
Custos Redemptóris, ora pro nobis.
Custos pudíce Vírginis, ora pro nobis.
Fílii Dei nutrície, ora pro nobis.
Christi defénsor sédule, ora pro nobis.
Serve Christi, ora pro nobis.
Minister salútis, ora pro nobis.
Almae Famíliae praeses, ora pro nobis.
Joseph justíssime, ora pro nobis.
Joseph castíssime, ora pro nobis.
Joseph prudentíssime, ora pro nobis.
Joseph fortíssime, ora pro nobis.
Joseph obedientíssime, ora pro nobis.
Joseph fidelíssime, ora pro nobis.
Spéculum paciéntiae, ora pro nobis.
Amátor paupertátis, ora pro nobis.
Exémplar opificum, ora pro nobis.
Domésticae vitae decus, ora pro nobis.
Custos vírginum, ora pro nobis.
Familiárum cólumen, ora pro nobis.
Fulcímén in difficultátibus, ora pro nobis.
Solátium miserórum, ora pro nobis.
Spes aegrotántium, ora pro nobis.
Patróné éxsulum, ora pro nobis.
Patróné afflictórum, ora pro nobis.
Patróné páuperum, ora pro nobis.
Patróné moriéntium, ora pro nobis.
Terror daémonum, ora pro nobis.
Protéctor sanctae Ecclésiae, ora pro nobis.*

*Holy Mary, pray for us.
Saint Joseph, pray for us.
Noble offspring of David, pray for us.
Light of Patriarchs, pray for us.
Spouse of the Mother of God, pray for us.
Guardian of the Redeemer, pray for us.
Chaste Guardian of the Virgin, pray for us.
Foster-Father of the Son of God, pray for us.
Zealous Defender of Christ, pray for us.
Servant of Christ, pray for us.
Minister of Salvation, pray for us.
Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.
Joseph Most Just, pray for us.
Joseph Most Chaste, pray for us.
Joseph Most Prudent, pray for us.
Joseph Most Courageous, pray for us.
Joseph Most Obedient, pray for us.
Joseph Most Faithful, pray for us.
Mirror of Patience, pray for us.
Lover of Poverty, pray for us.
Model of Workmen, pray for us.
Glory of Domestic Life, pray for us.
Guardian of Virgins, pray for us.
Pillar of Families, pray for us.
Support in troubles, pray for us.
Comfort of the Wretched, pray for us.
Hope of the Sick, pray for us.
Patron of Exiles, pray for us.
Patron of the Afflicted, pray for us.
Patron of the Poor, pray for us.
Patron of the Dying, pray for us.
Terror of Demons, pray for us.
Protector of the Holy Church, pray for us.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi,
parce nobis, Dómine.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi,
exáudi nos, Dómine.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccáta mundi,
miserére nobis.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins the world,
Spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins the world,
Have mercy on us.*

*V. Constituit eum dómimum domus suae.
R. Et princípem omnis possessiónis suae..*

*V. He has made him lord of his household,
R. And prince of all his possessions.*

*Oremus:
Deus, qui ineffábili providéntia beátum Joseph
sanctíssimae Genetrícis tuae sponsum eligere dignátus
es: praesta, quaésumus; ut quem protectórem
venerámur in terris, intercessórem habére mereámur
in caelis : Qui vivis et regnas in saécula saeculórum.
Amen.*

*Let us pray:
O God, who, in your loving providence, chose Blessed
Joseph to be the spouse of your most Holy Mother,
grant us the favour of having him for our intercessor in
heaven whom on earth we venerate as our protector.
You, who live and reign forever and ever.
Amen.*



FEATURED SOLOISTS - ORDER OF APPEARANCE



MARTIN RENNER-WALLACE - TENOR

Martin Renner-Wallace is a Canadian operatic tenor known for his powerful voice, emotional depth, and commanding stage presence. His sound blends a clarion lyricism with a warm baritonal edge, described as having “a clear pure tenor sound with exquisite high notes and lush warmth” (Kelowna Daily Courier).

In 2024, he returned to Kelowna Opera as Canio (*I Pagliacci*) and Gerardo (*Gianni Schicchi*), also performing Rodolfo (*La Bohème*) and Eisenstein (*Die Fledermaus*). He has sung major roles including Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*), Don José (*Carmen*), and Pollione (*Norma*). An accomplished oratorio singer, his repertoire includes *Messiah*, Verdi’s *Requiem*, and Mahler’s *Symphony No. 8*. A graduate of multiple young artist programs, Martin continues to perform across Canada and internationally.



AARON DURAND - BARITONE

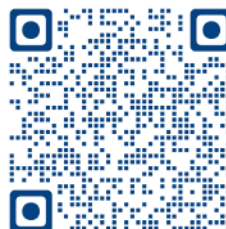
Aaron Durand is known for three things: he sings, grows a good beard, and knows a little about a lot. A deep love of opera has gifted Aaron with travels worldwide, singing on stages from St. John's to Chengdu, Prague to Penticton. Aaron is widely known for his easygoing nature, “beautiful, fluid baritone”, and "sense of the comical and the ludicrous". He holds a Master’s degree in Opera Performance from UBC, with specialist knowledge of opera and art song combined with studies in mythosomatics. He dwells in the territory of the Squamish people.



KATHLEEN MORRISON - SOPRANO

Kathleen Morrison, described as “riveting” by Opera Canada, is an internationally acclaimed operatic soprano and the Artistic/Executive Director of *Alberta Vocal Arts*, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting/preserving the classical vocal arts. She owns *Voice by Kathleen*, coaching singers across genres with an emphasis on healthy technique.

Since 2019, she is the director of Solo Voice Studies at Renert School and is a sought-after adjudicator and clinician. A Calgary native, she enjoys time with her Samoyeds, Alfie and Rosie, and is an award-winning Certified Trick Dog Instructor and Vice-President of the Samoyed Association of Canada. Upcoming performances include *Aria Going to the Opera?*, *Evening Echoes* with Alberta Vocal Arts, and Pergolesi’s *Stabat Mater* with the Calgary Concert Opera Company.





MARYNA SZOJKA - SOPRANO

An international performer, Maryna has captivated audiences across Canada, the United States, and Europe. Her principal roles include Frasquita (*Carmen*), Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), Nella (*Gianni Schicchi*), and Miss Cutter (*Annie Davidson, World Premiere*), for organizations such as the Don Wright Faculty of Music, the Accademia Europea dell'Opera, and Cowtown Opera. She also joined the ensembles of *Ella Goes to Comicon* (Cowtown Opera) and *The Sound of Music* (Bottle Tree Productions).

A Calgary native, Maryna founded the St. Hildegard Society. Beyond leading sacred music at Mass, she enjoys camping, skiing, and raising her three children.

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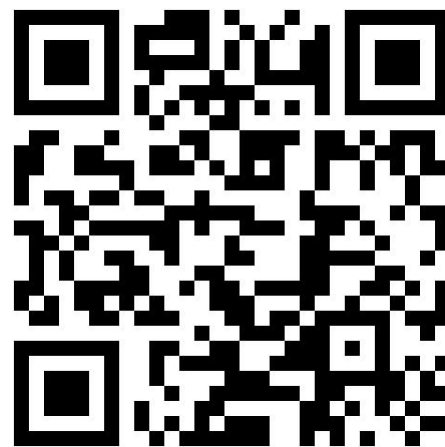
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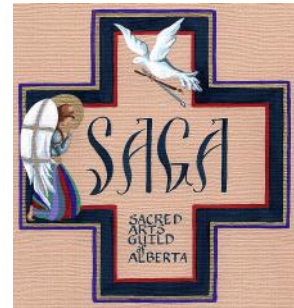
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