

A Time For All Things

Halifax Camerata Singers

Jeff Joudrey, Artistic Director



credits & acknowledgements

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RECORDING VENUES

March 2015: Saint Benedict
Parish, Halifax
June 2015: Trinity-St. Stephen's
United Church, Amherst

PRODUCTION

Production: Leaf Music
Recording Engineer: Jeremy VanSlyke
Project Manager: Peggy Walt
Writer: Jill Rafuse
Designer: Andrea Rankin

HCS1501

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Made in Canada

from the artistic director

Ideas for this recording in 2015 have been percolating over several concert seasons. The theme finally emerged from a commissioned work that was premiered by the Halifax Camerata Singers and Pro Coro Canada at Podium 2014, the national Choral Canada conference held in Halifax. **There was a Time** by Nova Scotia-born composer Cy Giacomin uses the memorable text from Ecclesiastes 3 that somehow sums up the “interesting times” during which this music was written. Times of economic insecurity, spiritual longing, terrorism, and natural disasters have intertwined with incredible advances in technology and medicine, peace in most of the world, an awakening in environmental awareness, and unimagined connectedness through social media. Through all the interesting times – past, present, future – music sustains us.

In selecting repertoire for *A Time for All Things*, I found that the Ecclesiastes theme also embraced some of the most satisfying repertoire that the Halifax Camerata Singers has been singing recently. All thirteen pieces were composed in the last two decades, and six are by Canadians. I hope the selections will intrigue choral music lovers and quickly become favorites.

Jeff Joudrey



a time for all things

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven ...

As this recording takes its theme from Ecclesiastes, so does Cy Giacomini's **There Was A Time** (2014) – an interesting contemporary composition with progressive time signatures. Cy is a native of Halifax who sang with the Halifax Camerata Singers while he was studying music at Dalhousie and McGill universities. He now lives in Sarnia, Ontario, where he is a teacher, composer, and founder/conductor of the Bluewater Chamber Choir.

A time for faith ...

Antiphon (2000) was written by Peter-Anthony Togni, a freelance composer and broadcaster living in Halifax. This contemplative work on Psalm 111 features bass clarinetist Jeff Reilly, who performs with Togni in the renowned trio Sanctuary. The invocation **Agnus Dei** (1997) from *Missa Brevis in Honorem Beatae Mariae Virginis* was originally written for children's voices; the composer, Kristina Vasiliauskaite, teaches at the Ciurlionis

Art School in Vilnius, Lithuania. **The Ground** (2010) is based on a chorale from the last movement of the *Sunrise Mass* by Norwegian Ola Gjeilo, a composer and pianist now living in the United States.

A time for the earth ...

Ecclesiastes also tells us that “a generation goes and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.” **Voices of Earth** (2008) was commissioned by the Dartmouth Community Concert Association for its 50th anniversary season and was premiered by the Halifax Camerata Singers. Composer Mark Sirett of Kingston, Ontario, chose a Canadian poem for this SATB work, which is accompanied by piano and violin. The contemplative **Sure on this Shining Night** (2005) by Morten Lauridsen is from a song cycle entitled *Nocturnes* that was commissioned by the American Choral Directors Association in 2005. **Snow Angel** (2003) is from a five-movement work by the same name that Sarah Quartel composed for Les Choristes women's ensemble at the

University of Western Ontario. Sarah, a conductor and educator living in Eastern Ontario, later arranged the final movement for SATB voices, piano, and cello.

A time for love ...

The Lover's Chant (2014) won the Diane Loomer Award in the Choral Canada Competition for Choral Writing and was premiered by the National Youth Choir at the Podium 2014 choral conference in Halifax. This contemporary madrigal by Toronto composer Matthew Emery uses a text by James Joyce.

A time for prayer ...

Stephanie Martin is a Canadian composer, conductor, teacher, performer, and church musician based at York University, Toronto. Her composition **The Kontakion** (2009) is a choral setting of an Eastern Byzantine rite for the faithful departed. Ola Gjeilo composed **Evening Prayer** (2010) for the Phoenix Chorale and conductor Charles Bruffy during a residency with the choir. This arrangement features piano and bass clarinet; the original was

written for saxophone. **Amazing Grace** (2004) comes from Latvian superstar composer Ēriks Ešenvalds. His contemporary arrangement of the well-known hymn is in eight parts, led by soprano soloist Lisa Webb.

A time for music ...

Two American compositions speak about the joy of singing and the reassurance that music provides in the face of life's challenges and trials. Frank Ticheli, professor of composition at the University of Southern California, wrote his own text for **Earth Song** (2006) as a tribute to the healing power of music. In his popular arrangement of the old hymn **How Can I Keep from Singing?** (1998), Z. Randall Stroope reaches back 150 years for a similar theme in a poem by Anna Bartlett Warner and melody by pastor-composer Robert Lowry.

*Is there a thing of which it is said,
“See, this is new?”*

It has already been, in the ages before us.

texts & translations

THERE WAS A TIME

Cy Giacomini, Halifax, NS
and Sarnia, Ont. (b. 1987)

Text: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 15

© Cy Giacomini

Paula Phillips, soprano descant

There was a time for everything,
And a season for every activity under heaven.
A time to be born, a time to die.
A time to plant, a time to harvest.
A time to hurt, a time to heal.
A time to tear down, a time to build up.
A time to cry, a time to laugh.
A time to grieve, a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, a time to
gather stones.
A time to embrace, a time to turn away.
A time to search, a time to give up.
A time to keep, a time to throw away.
A time to tear, a time to mend.
A time to be silent, a time to sing.
A time to love, a time to hate.
A time for war, a time for peace.
Whatever is has already been,
And what has been has been before.
And God calls back the past.

ANTIPHON

Peter-Anthony Togni, Halifax, NS (b. 1959)

Text: Psalm 111:4-5

© Peter-Anthony Togni

Jeff Reilly, bass clarinet

The Lord keeps in our minds the wonderful
things he has done.
He is compassion and love.
He always provides for his faithful.

.....

AGNUS DEI (from *Missa Brevis in Honorem Beatae Mariae Virginis*)

Kristina Vasiliauskaitė, Lithuania (b. 1956)

Text: Latin Mass

© Santa Barbara Music Publishing

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God,
who taketh away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.*

THE GROUND (from *Sunrise Mass*)

Ola Gjeilo, Norway/United States (b. 1978)

Text: Latin Mass

© Walton Music

*Blue Engine String Quartet
Lynette Wahlstrom, piano*

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua,
Osanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini,
Osanna in excelsis.
Agnus Dei, tollis peccata mundi,
Dona nobis pacem.

*Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin
of the world,
Grant us peace.*

SURE ON THIS SHINING NIGHT

Morten Lauridsen, United States (b. 1943)

Text: James Agee (1909-1955)

© Songs of Peer Ltd.

Lynette Wahlstrom, piano

Sure on this shining night
Of star-made shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground.

The late year lies down the north.
All is healed, all is health.
High summer holds the earth.
Hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night
I weep for wonder
Wand'ring far alone
Of shadows on the stars.

EARTH SONG

Frank Ticheli, United States (b. 1958)
© Hinshaw Music

Sing, Be, Live, See ...
This dark stormy hour,
The wind, it stirs.
The scorched earth
cries out in vain;

O war and power,
You blind and blur.
The torn heart
cries out in pain.

But music and singing
Have been my refuge
And music and singing
Shall be my light.

A light of song
Shining strong: Alleluia!
Through darkness, pain and strife, I'll
Sing, Be, Live, See ...

Peace.

VOICES OF EARTH

Mark Sirett, Kingston, Ont. (b. 1952)
Text: Archibald Lampman (1861–1899)
© Boosey & Hawkes

Jennifer Jones, violin; Lynette Wahlstrom, piano

We cannot hear the music of the spheres,
The song of star to star, but there are sounds
More deep than human joy and tears
That Nature uses in her common rounds;

The fall of streams, the cry of winds that strain
The oak, the roaring of the sea's surge, might
Of thunder breaking afar off, or rain
That falls by minutes in the summer night.

These are the voices of earth's secret soul,
Uttering the mystery from which she came.
To him who hears them, grief beyond control
Or joy inscrutable without a name,
Wakes in his heart thoughts bedded there,
impearled,
Before the birth and making of the world.

SNOW ANGEL

Sarah Quartel, Gananoque, Ont. (b. 1982)
© Sarah Quartel

Hilary Brown, cello; Lynette Wahlstrom, piano

I went to my window one bright
winter's morn
and gazed at the new-fallen snow.
The world overtaken by flurries of white
had set my surroundings aglow.
I looked to the heavens seeing the source
of this wonderland newly appeared,
when there I spied a snow angel
holding the flakes and spreading them near.

She sang, "Even though the snow may blow,
there's not a wind can stop my music
For I know that winter shelters life."

On silver blue wingtips she soared
through the air
ensuring the flowers were warm.
She knew that her snowflakes would
blanket the earth
and keep all its friends safe from harm.
I thought for a moment she must
be a dream,
this angel with silvery wings,
But then I discovered she was heaven-sent
as her icy lips opened to sing.

"Even though the snow may blow
there's not a wind can stop my music,
For I know that winter shelters life."

When she knew that the flow'rs were asleep
she beat her wings faster to go
But soon looking back on the work
she had done
she let herself fall to the snow.
I saw for a moment the smile on her face
'fore she launched herself back in the air.
I'm sure there are many snow angels
in heav'n
but now I have one down here.

I sing, "Even though the snow may blow
there's not a wind can stop my music
For I know that winter shelters life."



THE LOVER'S CHANT

Matthew Emery, Toronto, Ont. (b. 1991)

Text: James Joyce (1882–1941)

© Cypress Choral Music

When the shy star goes forth in heaven
All maidenly, disconsolate,
Hear you amid the drowsy even
One who is singing by your gate.
His song is softer than dew
And he is come to visit you.

O bend no more in revery
When he at eventide is calling,
Nor muse: Who may this singer be
Whose song about my heart is falling?
Know by this, the lover's chant,
'Tis I that am your visitant, 'tis I who
calls your heart.

EVENING PRAYER

Ola Gjeilo, Norway/United States (b. 1978)

Text: St. Augustine (354–430)

© Walton Music

Jeff Reilly, bass clarinet
Lynette Wahlstrom, piano

Watch, O Lord, with those who wake,
or watch or weep tonight,

and give your angels charge
over those who sleep.

Tend your sick ones,
O Lord Jesus Christ;
rest your weary ones;
bless your dying ones;
soothe your suffering ones;
pity your afflicted ones;
shield your joyous ones;
and all for your love's sake.
Amen.

THE KONTAKION

Stephanie Martin, Toronto, Ont. (b. 1962)

Text: Eastern Byzantine rite

© Cypress Choral Music

Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with
your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing but life everlasting.
You only are immortal, the Creator
and Maker of all;
and we are mortal, formed of the earth
and to earth we shall return.
For so did you ordain when you created me,
saying:
“You are dust and to dust you shall return.”

All of us go down to the dust;
yet even at the grave we make our song:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

AMAZING GRACE

Ēriks Ešenvalds, Latvia (b. 1977)

Text: John Newton (1725–1807)

© Musica Baltica

Lisa Webb, soprano

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found.
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secure.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

arr. Z. Randall Stroope,

United States (b. 1953)

Text: Anna Bartlett Warner (1820–1915)

Music: Robert Lowry (1826–1899)

© Alliance Music Publishing

My life goes on in endless song,
Above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real though far-off song
that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that rock I'm clinging.
It sounds an echo in my soul –
How can I keep from singing?

Although the storms around me blow,
I know the truth will guide me,
Although the darkness 'round me grow
My song's the light beside me.
No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that rock I'm clinging,
While Love is lord of heav'n and earth
How can I keep from singing?

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guest artists



JEFF REILLY, *bass clarinet* Jeff Reilly leads a multifaceted life as a bass clarinetist, composer, conductor, CBC radio music producer, and radio documentary maker based in Halifax. A recording artist for the prestigious German label ECM, he has performed with choirs, orchestras and chamber groups, in music festivals, cathedrals and concert halls around the world. He also tours internationally with his trio, *Sanctuary*. Jeff is an East Coast Music Award winner and four-time Juno nominee. jeffreilly.ca

BLUE ENGINE STRING QUARTET

Jennifer Jones, *violin* | **Anne Simons, *violin*** | **Alexandra Bates, *viola*** | **Hilary Brown, *cello***
Halifax's Blue Engine String Quartet strives to be one of Canada's most innovative chamber ensembles and keeps things fresh by finding new ways to present classical string quartet repertoire. The Quartet commissions and premiers Canadian music, champions the works of underappreciated women composers, and collaborates with leading creative pop and classical artists. BlueEngineStringQuartet.com

JENNIFER JONES, *violin* Jennifer Jones is a member of Symphony Nova Scotia and Rhapsody Quintet, an avid chamber musician, and a founding member of the Nova Scotia chamber music series, Blue Engine Music. A graduate of Dalhousie and Indiana universities, she studied in France with Sylvie Gazeau of the Paris Conservatoire. Jennifer has a private teaching studio in Halifax, adjudicates at music festivals in the Maritimes, and teaches at Acadia University.

HILARY BROWN, *cello* A founding member of Blue Engine String Quartet, Hilary Brown is also a member of Symphony Nova Scotia and two early music ensembles: Tempest Baroque Ensemble and Réjouissance. She is a graduate of Boston University and studied as a Fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox, Mass. Hilary also teaches at the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts and is a coach for the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra.

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JEFF JOUDREY, *artistic director*

Jeff Joudrey is highly regarded for his vision, musical leadership, and standards of excellence in choral music. He founded the Halifax Camerata Singers in 1986 and under his direction the choir has established an enviable reputation for performance excellence and innovative programming. Jeff is Director of Music at Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church, Amherst, and Chorus Master of the Symphony Nova Scotia Chorus. A dedicated champion of Canada's choirs and choral music composers, Jeff is the past president of Choral Canada and a former president of the Nova Scotia Choral Federation.



LYNETTE WAHLSTROM, *accompanist*

Collaborative pianist Lynette Wahlstrom is music director at First Baptist Church, Halifax, vocal coach at Dalhousie University, and accompanist for the Halifax Camerata Singers. A popular repetiteur, coach and accompanist, her performance associates include Opera Nova Scotia, the Halifax Summer Opera Festival and the Nova Scotia Choral Federation. Lynette holds degrees from Brandon University, Université de Montréal, and McGill University. She serves on the boards of Opera Nova Scotia, Early Music Society of Nova Scotia, and the Royal Canadian College of Organists (Halifax).



SOPRANO Jade Fraser | Danielle Kain | Christina Macdonald | Paula Phillips
Lisa Webb | Kallie White

ALTO Lisa Annand | Emma Baasch | Nina Horvath* | Sylvia Koning
Andrea Mathis | Jill Rafuse** | Shannah Rastin | Sally Sinclair

TENOR Tristan Cleveland-Thompson | Geoff Gillespie | David Jellicoe
Kristopher Snarby | Michael van der Gaag

BASS Ian Gilmore | Spencer Gough | Greg Lypowy | Bertrum MacDonald
Sean Pecknold | Patrick Salah | William Perrot*

* March recording session | ** June recording session

The **Halifax Camerata Singers** is Atlantic Canada's leading chamber choir. Founded in 1986, the Nova Scotia ensemble performs exciting choral repertoire that covers all periods and styles, with a special focus on Canadian music. The ensemble has been recognized nationally by Choral Canada for its performance standards and achievement. The choir

collaborates regularly with the musicians of Symphony Nova Scotia and has been the core choir of the Symphony Nova Scotia Chorus since 2001. Recordings include: *Solace: Songs of Remembrance* (2009), *Songs of the Stable: Christmas Music from Canada* (2006), *Songs of Home* (1997), and *Celtic Mass for the Sea* (1993).
HalifaxCamerata.org

- 1 THERE WAS A TIME *Cy Giacomini** | 5:13
- 2 ANTIPHON *Peter-Anthony Togni** | 5:28
- 3 AGNUS DEI (*from Missa Brevis in Honorem
Beatae Mariae Virginis*) *Kristina Vasiliauskaite* | 1:54
- 4 THE GROUND *Ola Gjeilo* | 3:46
- 5 SURE ON THIS SHINING NIGHT
Morten Lauridsen | 5:14
- 6 EARTH SONG *Frank Ticheli* | 3:41
- 7 VOICES OF EARTH *Mark Sirett** | 5:55
- 8 SNOW ANGEL *Sarah Quartel** | 4:43
- 9 THE LOVER'S CHANT *Matthew Emery** | 2:33
- 10 EVENING PRAYER *Ola Gjeilo* | 6:31
- 11 THE KONTAKION *Stephanie Martin** | 3:02
- 12 AMAZING GRACE *Ēriks Ešenvalds* | 5:13
- 13 HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?
Z. Randall Stroepe | 3:13

Total running time 56:59

*Canadian composer/arranger

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