

## Biographies

### **Ariel Harwood-Jones – Soprano**

Ms. Harwood-Jones received her formal education at the University of Toronto, earning a Bachelor of Music in Performance. She has performed for many prestigious organizations, including Tafelmusik Chamber Choir, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Canadian Brass, Winnipeg Symphony, the Elora Festival Singers, the Elmer Iseler Singers, Sault Symphony Orchestra, Nexus, and Toronto Consort.

A few of Ms. Harwood-Jones's solo appearances include Bach's Magnificat with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra conducted by Bramwell Tovey, Mozart's Mass in C Minor with Masterworks of Oakville, Handel's Messiah with Mississauga Choral Society, Mozart's Requiem with the Elora Festival Singers, Handel's Dixit Dominus with Tafelmusik Chamber Choir, Einhorn's Voices of Light with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and has appeared with the Nota Bene Baroque Players in their production of Bach's Magnificat, conducted by Howard Dyck. Since 2016, she has been focusing on using her extensive knowledge of Early Music to develop a new ensemble, Kammerchor London, where she performs, manages, and directs. Ariel is also a piano technician, working with both private clients and Western University. She lives in London as a house slave to her three cats.



### **Andrea Ludwig - Alto**

Born and raised in Regina, Saskatchewan, Juno and Dora award winning mezzo soprano Andrea Ludwig is an artist of tremendous depth and versatility. Andrea has appeared with the Canadian Opera Company in numerous roles including Nireno in Handel's Julius Caesar, the Second Niece in Britten's Peter Grimes, Flora in The Turn of the Screw, Moira in Paul Ruder's The Handmaid's Tale, and Liesgen in Bach's Coffee Cantata. Very much in demand for contemporary opera, Andrea has been involved in many of Tapestry New Opera's projects including their Liblab and Opera Briefs as well as newly premiered operas Shelter, Oksana G,

The Overcoat and most recently, Gould's Wall. Andrea was Nada in the multi-Dora-nominated Queen of Puddings' production of Ana Sokolovic's Svadba (The Wedding) that had its world premiere in Toronto in



June 2011. She reprised the role of Nada in France, Serbia and Ireland in 2012; at Edmonton Opera and Philadelphia Opera in 2013, San Francisco Opera in 2016, and at the prestigious Festival D'Aix en Provence in 2015.

Ms. Ludwig's commitment to concert performance remains a strong focus. She has appeared with Symphony Nova Scotia, Symphony New Brunswick, Shanghai New Music Festival, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Against the Grain Theatre, Toronto Masque Theatre, Soundstreams, Off Centre Music Salon and The TSO Chamber Soloists. Recordings include the ECMA-nominated Schubert Orchestrations with Symphony Nova Scotia, Responsio, by Peter Anthony Togni, Galicians II with The Ukrainian Art Song Project, ATMA label recording of Ana Sokolovic's Sirens, and the UK Chandos recording of Thais: Grand Opera in Concert, with the TSO and TMC, under the direction of Sir Andrew Davis.

### **Michael P. Taylor—Tenor**

Michael is a graduate of both St. Michael's Choir School as well as the University of Toronto and has a fondness for performing early music. He enjoys singing the Messiah and has also sung the Evangelist role in both Bach's St. John's Passion (2015), as well as his St. Matthew's Passion (2017). Michael has sung with a few choirs, including the Oakville Choral Society (Mendelssohn's Hymn of Praise, 2016), Musikay, the Ottawa Valley Festival, the Bach Consort, Bach festival Singers, Victoria Scholars, Cantemus, and The Adelphi. Michael is also an organist and choir director at St. Clement's Church, Cambridge, and has played the tenor roles in Gilbert & Sullivan productions of Sorcerer, Pinafore, Yeomen, Gondoliers, and Princess Ida.



### **Daniel Van Winden - Bass**

Daniel is thrilled to be singing with the Stratford Concert Choir again this season. Daniel grew up in Woodstock, Ontario and now lives in Stratford with his wife and son, where he works as Music Director of Avondale United Church and in the Human Resources department at the Stratford Festival. Daniel graduated from Western University in 2014 with a Masters of Music, Vocal Performance and Literature, and has a small studio of vocal students. Daniel will also be Music Director for a production of Guys and Dolls at Theatre Woodstock this coming February.



### **Shawn Spicer – Trumpet**

Shawn has been a professional trumpet player and educator since 1990. He has played in orchestras across Canada and was principal trumpet of Orchestra London Canada from 1999 to 2014. Shawn is the principal trumpet of the London Symphonia and is in demand as a freelance player across Ontario Canada.

As a chamber musician Shawn has worked with the True North Brass, the Trillium Brass and the Foothills Brass and has appeared at festivals in Ottawa, Aspen, Sante Fe and Bamfield. He is active in the early music world where he has played with Tafelmusik, the Toronto Consort, the Hogtown Waites, the Toronto Bach Festival, and Opera Atelier. Shawn has enjoyed being a regular artist at the Stratford Festival playing in musicals, Festival Theatre Fanfares and onstage.

As an educator Shawn was trumpet instructor at the Canadian Forces School of Music at Borden from 1991 until 1998 and he has taught at Western University since 2002.

