



Stratford Concert Choir
sharing great choral music

Vivaldi
GLORIA

with the Stratford Symphony Orchestra



STRATFORD
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Conducted by Stéphane Potvin

May 24 2025, 7 pm
Avondale United Church
Stratford, Ontario

President's Message

As we conclude our 2024/25 season there are so many to thank for contributing to our success.

Thank you to Artistic Director Stéphane Potvin, for your pursuit of excellence in our sound.

Thank you to our donors, sponsors, supporters and concert attendees. Your generosity allows us to strive for interesting and diverse programming that remains relevant to our community.

Thank you to the Stratford Art and Culture Collective and the Stratford Symphony Youth Orchestra. Your invitations to sing and participate in your events this season offered us an opportunity to be a part of and support the arts in a wider community.

Enjoy the concert and stay tuned for details on our 2025/26 season!

Sheila Holloway

Land acknowledgement

Welcome to the Stratford Concert Choir. It is a great privilege to gather and share music on this beautiful territory, which has been the site of human activity for many thousands of years. We acknowledge that we are gathered today on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabek and the Neutral Attawandaron peoples. We honour and respect the history, languages, cultures and diversity of the Indigenous, Metis and Inuit people who call this territory home. We are grateful to live work, play and sing on this land.

SEASON SPONSORS



Program

Cantata BWV 147. Jesus bleibet meine Freude

J.S.Bach

BWV 12 Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen

J.S.Bach

Sinfonia

Chorus Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen

Recitative Alto

Aria Alto

Aria Basso

Aria Tenore

Chorale Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan

Gloria

Vivaldi

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Et in Terra pax

Laudamus te

Gratias agimus tibi

Domine Deus

Domine Fili unigenite

Domine Deus, Agnus Dei

Qui tollis peccata mundi

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus

Cum Sancto Spiritu

**Please silence cell phones during performance.
Photography and recordings are prohibited.**

Artists

Stéphane Potvin, Artistic Director

Maestro Stéphane Potvin started his music studies at the age of seven and found his true passion for conducting in his teens. He attended McGill University to study piano performance and choral conducting, and later received a Master's degree in choral conducting from the University of Illinois under the tutelage of Fred Stoltzfus. He is very privileged to have further studied conducting with Frieder Bernius, Otto Werner Mueller and Gustav Meier, to name a few.



With over thirty-five years of experience, he is able to coax lyrical performances from orchestras, choirs, and chamber ensembles alike. Maestro Potvin's approach to music-making marries the technical precision of the German culture, the silkiness of English singing, and the passion, fervour, and exuberance of his French-Canadian heritage. Above all, he loves sharing his passion for music with colleagues and audiences.

A close-up photograph of a hand playing piano keys. The focus is on the fingers and the keys, with a blurred background.

Proud Supporter of Music in our Community.

 **Long & McQuade**
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS 
long-mcquade.com

Serving Canada
since 1956 with
100 stores across
the country

145 ERIE STREET · (519) 271-9102 · STRATFORD@LONG-MCQUADE.COM

Artists

Ariel Harwood-Jones, Soprano

It is my life's work to express, or to assist others to express, those emotions and feelings that can only be conveyed through music. Music is how my spirit takes wing and soars to unfathomable, seemingly unreachable heights. I hope that music does the same for your spirit, too.



I first received my formal education studying with Barbara Collier. I then attended the University of Toronto, earning a Bachelor of Music in Performance, studying with Lois McDonall. Today I am taking my voice to the next level by studying with Carol Baggott Forte. I have performed for many prestigious organizations, including the Elmer Iseler Singers, the Elora Festival Singers, and Tafelmusik Chamber Choir. In 2014, I returned to school to continue my education, but still maintained a few singing engagements. In December of that year I debuted with the Nota Bene Baroque Players performing as Second Soprano soloist in Bach's Magnificat. In 2023 I was the recipient of the Forest City London Music Award in the Classical Vocal Solo category.

Engagements include Bach's Mass in B Minor with Voices, Mozart's Mass in C Minor with Masterworks of Oakville Chorus & Orchestra, Bach's Cantatas 147 and 80 with Pax Christie Chorale, Handel's Messiah with the Stratford Concert Choir, and Handel's Solomon with Masterworks of Oakville. I also had the pleasure of preparing a recital featuring, among other 20th Century composers, the composition "Chamber Music" by Canadian Alan Heard. Since 2016, I have been focusing on developing a new Early Music ensemble called Kammerchor London, which was the 2020 and 2023 recipient of the Forest City London Music Awards in the Classical Choir category.

Artists

Brooke Dufton, Soprano

Praised for her 'great skill' (Globe and Mail) and 'beautiful tone and control' (Chronicle-Herald), soprano Brooke Dufton specializes in new and early music. She has collaborated directly with many leading Canadian composers, premiering roles and works, many written for her, by John Beckwith, Norbert Palej, and others. She is also an acknowledged expert in R. Murray Shafer's ecological works. She has studied and performed with Tafelmusik, Hellmut Rillings' Bach Institute, and Sequentia; toured with various Renaissance ensembles across Canada; lectured on medieval song; and transcribed and performed the role of Anima in a fully-staged production of Bingen's Ordo Virtutum, for which she was featured on the CBC. Dr. Dufton has taught for a number of institutions, including the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, the Glenn Gould School, and the University of Toronto. She adjudicates, conducts, and maintains a global private studio. She is currently based in Stratford where she conducts the Festival Sounds Chorus and Flight Children's choir.

The advertisement features a dark blue header with the Ontario Home Health logo and a red 'LIVE LIFE ON YOUR TERMS' badge. Below the header is a collage of four images: a family with a child in a wheelchair, a caregiver assisting an elderly person on stairs, two people in wheelchairs outdoors, and a patient in a hospital bed with medical equipment.

Ontario Home Health **LIVE LIFE ON YOUR TERMS**

Home Medical Equipment Solutions
Mobility | Accessibility | Home Safety
CPAP/Sleep Therapy | Home Oxygen | Personal Care

OntarioHomeHealth.ca 1-800-661-1912

Artists

Emma Heaton , Alto

Emma Heaton is an emerging vocalist, who is applauded for her “artistry and musical integrity” as well as for the “well-balanced...real and engaged” timbre of her voice. Currently based in London, Ontario, Emma is pursuing her MMus in voice at Western University’s Don Wright Faculty of Music.



Originally from Toronto, her musical mentors in both Toronto and London have included Jean Macphail, Monica Whicher, Bethany Horst, and most recently Todd Wiczorek. Emma performs the music of a wide variety of eras and feels a particular affinity for the music of both early and contemporary composers. Recent performance opportunities have reflected this affinity - Emma has had the honour of portraying a shepherdess in John Blow’s opera Venus and Adonis, Mrs. Herring in Albert Herring by Benjamin Britten, and an incarcerated woman in Anna Hostman’s new work Cells of Wind. She is delighted to join the Stratford Concert Choir for this performance.

A promotional graphic for the Stratford Symphony Orchestra's Season 21. The background is black with a golden, sparkling wave pattern at the bottom. The text is centered and reads: "Season 21" in white serif font, "New and Old Worlds:" in a larger, golden serif font, and "Emerging Artists, World Premieres, and Classic Favourites" in white serif font. In the bottom left corner, there is a QR code with the text "Buy Now!" below it. In the bottom right corner, there is the Stratford Symphony Orchestra logo, which consists of the letters "SSO" in a stylized, golden font, with "STRATFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA" in white capital letters below it.

Season 21

New and Old Worlds:

Emerging Artists, World Premieres,
and Classic Favourites

Buy Now!

SSO
STRATFORD
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Artists

Ryan Nauta, Tenor

Born and raised in Chatham, Ontario, tenor Ryan Nauta has earned recognition as “one to watch” (Le Devoir). Ryan is entering his second year of the McPhee Artist Development Program at Calgary Opera. Recent credits at Calgary Opera include the Notary (Don Pasquale) and the Minister and Chauffeur (The Witty Squirrel). In a recent co-production between the Banff Centre and the National Arts Centre, Ryan performed the role of Don Ottavio (Don Giovanni). Further credits include Erster Geharnischer (The Magic Flute), Albert Herring (Albert Herring), and Lysander (A Midsummer Night’s Dream). As a concert soloist, Ryan has performed popular works, such as Messiah (Handel), the Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings (Britten), and Messe de minuit (Charpentier), as well as works by underrepresented composers, such as Misa Criolla (Ramirez) and Missa Votiva (Zelenka). Ryan is an alumnus of Western University and McGill University. In his personal time, he enjoys reading, baking, and caring for his overwhelming plant collection.



Nathan Dyck, Baritone

Baritone Nathan Dyck comes from the province of Manitoba. Choral music, musical theatre and opera are all part of his past experiences. As a soloist, he’s worked under David Klassen at Canadian Mennonite University in productions of Amahl and the Night Visitors, City Workers in Love and Pirates of Penzance. He toured Manitoba with the Manitoba Underground Opera as Papa Bear in a musical performance of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. More recently, he performed the roles of Belcore and Ford in Western University Opera’s productions of L’elisir D’amore and Falstaff. He completed a Masters in Vocal Performance and Literature at Western in spring 2023 and continues to sing throughout Southwestern Ontario.



Stratford Concert Choir Choristers

Soprano

Delaney, Charlene
Delaurier, Gail
Hertzberger, Yvonne
Laustsen, Susan
Low, Kathryn
McDonald, Sharon
Simpson, Shelby
Smith, Marilyn
Southam, Ann
Stock, Ruth
Vair, Meredith
Whiting, Linda

Alto

Beemer, Crystal
Chaplin-Thomas,
Charmion
Cherniak, Miriam
Dowdell, Chris
Dianne Gaffney
Gardiner Marklevitz,
Susan
Hazeleger, Allison
Sheila Holloway
Kaufmann, Marlene
McEwen, Susan
McGregor, Lynda
Moore, Irene
Patterson, Julie
Talsma, Jennifer
Wright, Jill

Tenor

Davidson, Peter
de Looze, Marijke
Fraser, Cam
Garner, Jane
Hertzberger, Mark
Pibbs, Wade
Wahl, Gary

Bass

Aitken, Terry
Allwood, Mark
Burak, Marco
Charlesworth, Chris
Harrison, Les
Hearn, Jeff
Klassen, Herb
Laustsen, Jeff
Pinkerton, Fred
Stager, Brad

Stratford Symphony Members

Violin 1

Bruce Skelton **
Dionne Porter
YiYang Shi
Ella Weber

Violin 2

Claire Motyer *
Hallie Ashman
John Sanderson
Barry Schneider

Viola

Chantal Lamire *
Andrea Creech
Kirby Julian
Laura Deakin

Cello

Anna Grigg *
Charlotte Detweiler
Boet Zondag

Bass

Luc Michaud*
Barb Julian

Oboe

Sarah Cardwell *

Trumpet

Kevin Swinden *

**Concert Master

* Principal

Vivaldi Concert Supporters

Orchestra Lead Donor
First Violin supporter

Charmion Chaplin-Thomas
Paul & Marilyn Smith

Vivaldi Friends

Sheila Holloway
Nadia Lenninger
Rose Marcy
J. Paul Newell & Susan Andresen

Gifts to Honour Donors

James MacDougall in honour of Connie MacDougall
Thomas Holloway in honour of Sheila Holloway

Young and Emerging Artists Supporters

One of the pillars of the Stratford Concert Choir is its commitment to the mentorship of young and emerging artists. In this 2024-25 season we will feature nine emerging artists currently enrolled in university studies. They will again have the opportunity to perform with an intergenerational, auditioned choir and be mentored by its professional director.

The Concert Choir is very pleased to recognize James MacDougall's outstanding contribution to this program again this year. He continues to lead the way in supporting this opportunity for young and emerging artists.

James is joined this year by:

Maria Soulis

Cam Fraser

Marilyn & Paul Smith

Kelly Walker & Ray Harsant

Christine Dowdell

Ruth Stock

Jill Wright

Accountable Automotive

Johnson Engineering Consultants

Les Harrison

2025-2026 Season



Details of our 45th season coming soon!

Check back often at:

www.stratfordconcertchoir.org

<https://www.facebook.com/theStratfordConcertChoir/>

<https://www.instagram.com/thestratfordconcertchoir/>

