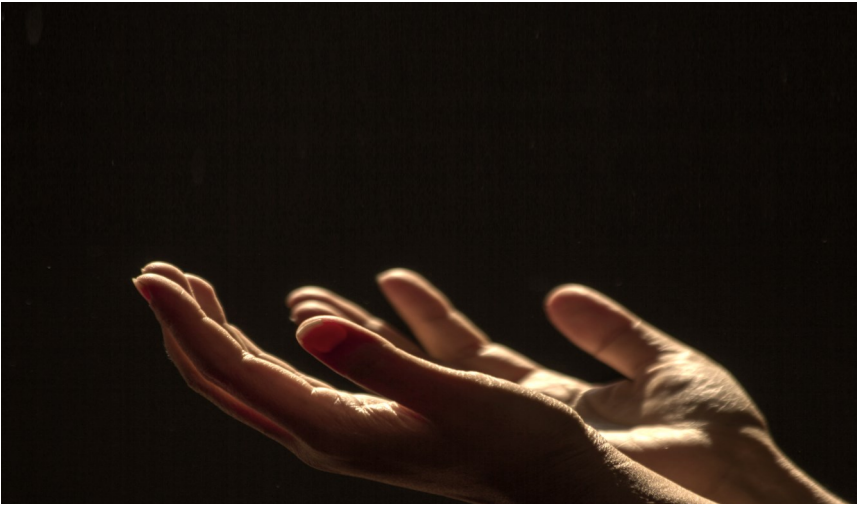


PRAISE

AN EVENING OF PSALM TEXTS



Kappella Kyrie Slavic Chamber Choir
Dr. Melanie Turgeon, Conductor

With Guests:

Shumayela - Kimberley Denis, Conductor
Alena Malykhina, soloist
Dr. Marnie Giesbrecht, organ
Mark Segger, percussion
Keri Lynn Zwicker, harp

Saturday May 13, 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10025-105 STREET EDMONTON, CANADA

PROGRAM NOTES

Tonight's program is centred on American composer Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. Leonard Bernstein was born in Massachusetts to Ukrainian-Jewish parents who immigrated to the United States from Rivne, presently a city in western Ukraine. His mother was Jennie (nee Resnick) and his father was Samuel Joseph Bernstein. Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* was premiered in New York in 1965. It is an extensive composition in three movements, originally scored for choir, large orchestra and treble soloist. Bernstein created two additional versions with fewer instruments to make it more feasible to perform. Tonight you will hear the version scored for organ, harp and percussion.

Psalms texts are prolific in the services of the Eastern Christian Church. This concert will include excerpts from the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom and Vespers by three contemporary composers, all of whom are making exceptional contributions to this sacred genre. This trio includes American composers Benedict Sheehan and Kurt Sander, and Ukrainian-Canadian composer Roman Hurko. Kurt Sander's 90-minute recording of *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom* was released as a 2-CD set in 2019. It was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2020 under the category of "Best Choral Album." Sheehan's *Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom* as well as his *Vespers* were also both recently nominated for Grammy Awards. Tonight you will hear one movement from each of these three extensive compositions; namely Sheehan's "Second Antiphon" from the Divine Liturgy, "The Lord is King" from Vespers, and Sander's "Praise the Lord from the Heavens" from his Divine Liturgy. *Kappella Kyrie* recently hosted Benedict for a workshop. To hear him describe and explain the process and inspiration behind the compositions we are performing, was invaluable. It was an honour to make music and interact with such a talented composer and conductor.

This past summer I had the pleasure of meeting the great granddaughter of famous Ukrainian composer, Kyrylo Stetsenko. Just over a year ago, Ksenia Stetsenko fled Ukraine and she is currently residing in the United States. Ksenia is an accomplished musician, particularly a talented violinist. Following in the footsteps of her great grandfather, she is also becoming a prolific composer. *Kappella Kyrie* will perform Kyrylo Stetsenko's „Благослови, душе моя, Господа" (Bless the Lord, O My Soul), as part of our Vespers set in the first half of the program, and in the second half you will hear the world premiere of Ksenia Stetsenko's *Penitential Prayer*. It will immediately follow the poignant arrangement of female Finnish composer, Mia Makaroff's *Were You There?*

Tonight's concert aims to feature living composers. We hope you enjoy hearing more recent contributions to choral music, alongside Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, a monumental composition of the twentieth century, uniquely sung in Hebrew.

Melanie Turgeon

PROGRAM

Welcome

Ivan Fedyna,

President *Kappella Kyrie* Slavic Chamber Choir

Kappella Kyrie Slavic Chamber Choir

Jauchzet dem Herrn! (Shout to the Lord)

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)

Text: Psalm 100:1-5

Soloists: Namisha Greening, Chelsy Bouwman, Liana DePoe,
Raina Cornelsen, Caleb Nelson, Matthew Fullerton, Rigel
Rendón, Rafael Tian

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth!

Serve the Lord with gladness;

come before his presence with rejoicing!

Know that the Lord is God.

He had made us, and not we ourselves,

to be his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving

and into his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him; praise his name!

For the Lord is kind, and his mercy is everlasting,

and his truth endures for ever and ever.

„Благослови, душе моя, Господа” (Bless the Lord, O My Soul), movement 2 from *Вечірня* (Vespers)

Kyrylo Stetsenko (1882-1922)

Text: Select verses from Psalm 103 (104)

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Blessed are you, O Lord.

You are very great, O Lord my God.

Blessed are you, O Lord.

You are clothed in pomp and brilliance.

Blessed are you, O Lord.

Waters stand over the mountains.

How marvelous are your works, O Lord!

Waters shall go down between the mountains.

How marvelous are your works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have wrought them all.

Glory to you, O Lord, who have made them all.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to you, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to you, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to you, O God.

„Блажен муж” (Blessed is the Man), movement 4 from *Вечірня* (Vespers)

Roman Hurko (b. 1962)

Text: Select verses from Psalms 1, 2 and 3

Caleb Nelson, soloist

Blessed is the man who has not walked in the counsel of the ungodly.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lord knows the ways of the just,

but the ways of the wicked shall cease to be. Alleluia...

Serve the Lord with fear, exult in Him with trembling. Alleluia...

Blessed are all who trust in Him. Alleluia...

Arise, O Lord, and save me, my God. Alleluia...

Salvation is of the Lord, and your blessing shall be upon your people.

Alleluia...

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to you, O Lord.

“The Lord is King,” movement 8 from *Vespers*

Benedict Sheehan (b. 1980)

Based on a melody from the Kyiv Caves Monastery

Text: Psalm 92 (93)

Kimberley Denis, soloist

Soloist: The evening prokimenon in the Sixth Tone:

The Lord is King, he is robed in majesty.

Chorus: The Lord is King, he is robed in majesty.

Soloist: The Lord is robed in strength and has girded himself,

for he has established our lands so that they shall never be shaken.

From of old is thy throne prepared, from all eternity thou art.

The rivers, O Lord, have lifted up, the rivers have uplifted their voices,

the rivers shall raise their strong floods with the voices of many waves.

Wondrous is the surging of the sea, wondrous is the Lord on high.
Thy testimonies were steadfastly made,
holiness befits thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

Kappella Kyrie Slavic Chamber Choir and Shumayela

Chichester Psalms

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

Marnie Giesbrecht, organ

Mark Segger, percussion

Keri Lynn Zwicker, harp

Alena Malykhina, treble soloist

Natalia Onyschuk, Riana Cornelsen, Caleb Nelson,
Cameron Douglas Graham, solo quartet

(English translation from the score)

Movement 1

Psalm 108:2

Awake, psaltery and harp:

I will rouse the dawn!

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before His presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord, He is God.

It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves.

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.
For the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endureth to all generations.

Movement 2

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures,
He leadeth me beside the still waters,
He restoreth my soul,
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness,
For His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk
Through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
For Thou art with me.
Thy rod and Thy staff
They comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me
In the presence of mine enemies,
Thou anointest my head with oil,
My cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy

Shall follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 2:1-4

Why do the nations rage,
And the people imagine a vain thing?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together
Against the Lord and against His anointed.
Saying, let us break their bands asunder,
And cast away their cords from us.
He that sitteth in the heavens
Shall laugh, and the Lord
Shall have them in derision!

Movement 3

Psalm 131

Lord, Lord,
My heart is not haughty,
Nor mine eyes lofty,
Neither do I exercise myself
In great matters or in things
Too wonderful for me.
Surely I have calmed
And quieted myself,
As a child that is weaned of his mother,
My soul is even as a weaned child.

Let Israel hope in the Lord
From henceforth and forever.

Psalm 133:1

Behold how good,
And how pleasant it is,
For brethren to dwell
Together in unity.

INTERMISSION

Shumayela

A Jubilant Song

Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Psalm of Earth

James DesJardins

God My Shepherd Gives Me All I Need

Andrew Donaldson

Hine Ma Tov

Allan Naplan

Kappella Kyrie Slavic Chamber Choir

Were You There?

Traditional

Arranged by Mia Makaroff (b. 1970)

With Psalm 13 by David (and parts of 119:120 and 96:9)

Tonight is the World Premiere of this piece!

Покаянна молитва (Penitential Prayer)

Ksenia Stetsenko (b. 1998)

Remit, pardon and forgive, O God,
our sins committed voluntarily and involuntarily,
by word and deed, knowingly and in ignorance,
by thought and purpose, by day and night;
forgive all these for You are gracious and love mankind.

“Praise the Lord from the Heavens,” movement 24 from The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Kurt Sander (b. 1969)

Text: Psalm 148

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the highest.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Kappella Kyrie Slavic Chamber Choir and Shumayela

Salmo 150

Ernani Aguiar (b.1949)

Rigel Rendón, conductor

Praise the Lord in his sacred places,
praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him for his mighty acts,
praise him according to his excellent greatness.
Praise him with the sound of the trumpet,
praise him with the psaltery and the harp.
Praise him with the timbrel and the dance,
praise him with strings and pipes.
Praise him with high-sounding cymbals,
praise him with cymbals of joy.
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

“Second Antiphon,” movement 3 from Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Benedict Sheehan (b. 1980)

Text: Psalm 145 (146)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
Praise the Lord, O my soul.
I shall praise the Lord in my life,
I shall sing to my God my whole life.
Put not your trust in princes in whom there is no salvation.
His breath shall depart, he shall return to the earth;

on that day all his thoughts shall crumble.

Blessed is the one whose help is in the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord his God,

in him who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and everything in them,

who preserves forever the truth,

who provides justice for the wronged,

who provides food for the starving.

The Lord sets every prisoner free,

the Lord uplifts the afflicted,

the Lord gives wisdom to the blind,

the Lord loves greatly the righteous.

The Lord keeps watch over strangers,

he shall adopt the orphan and the widow

but he shall unmake every sinner's way.

The Lord shall forever be King, thy God, O Zion to all generations.

KAPPELLA KYRIE SLAVIC CHAMBER CHOIR

Soprano I

Rachel Friesen
Namisha Greening
Luba Lubinsky
Micha Oostenbrink

Soprano II

Connie Braun
Julia Dytyniak
Natalia Onyschuk
Lois Sandrowski
Janet Smith

Tenor I

Douglas Laver
Caleb Nelson

Tenor II

Gregory Fedor
Matthew Fullerton
Cameron Douglas Graham
Joe Weleschuk

Rehearsal Accompanist

Katherine Tilbury

Apprentice Conductor

Rigel Rendón

Alto I

Chelsy Bouwman
Liana DePoe
Ksenia Fedyna
Donna Noton
Marah Pantzer
Maryan Threndyle
Darcia Wasarab-Rolland

Alto II

Luba Bilash
Raina Cornelsen
Andrea Leader
Anna Lodewyk
Johann Mann
Natalia Svyd

Baritone

Micah Friesen
Taras Nohas
Rigel Rendón
Orest Soltykevych
Vlodko Tarnawsky

Bass

Paul Batz
Ivan Fedyna
Alvin Hewko
Rafael Tian

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KAPPELLA KYRIE SLAVIC CHAMBER CHOIR



Kappella Kyrie Slavic Chamber Choir was founded in the spring of 2010 by Dr. Melanie Turgeon and others, in a conscientious effort to explore, highlight and uphold the rich, centuries-old musical tradition of the Christian East, with a particular focus on Slavic sacred music, as it is performed in the concert hall as well as in the liturgical context.

To date, *Kappella Kyrie* has delighted audiences with several wide-ranging and collaborative initiatives, and has performed with Chorale Saint-Jean, King's University Chamber Singers, Richard Eaton Singers, Calgary Youth Orchestra, among others. In June 2015, *Kappella Kyrie* marked their fifth anniversary with Rachmaninoff's famous *All-Night Vigil*, celebrated as an actual church service. November 2017 saw *Kappella Kyrie* perform with renowned Canadian tenor, Benjamin Butterfield and in June 2019 they proudly staged the North American premiere of Ukrainian Baroque composer Artem Vedel's sacred concerto with orchestra, *Помолихся лицу Твоєму всем сердцем моим*, along with Vivaldi's spectacular *Gloria*, both performed on period instruments at Baroque pitch (415 Hz). In February 2020, *Kappella Kyrie* celebrated its tenth anniversary with "A Journey Through Lent," collaborating with The King's University Chamber

Singers and faculty, to prayerfully showcase pieces sung in the Eastern Church during the Great Fast.

Beyond the concert hall, *Kappella Kyrie* toured Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary in May of 2014. They gained national recognition, placing second in the Pan-Cultural Traditions category of the Choral Canada National competition in 2015, and first in 2019. Their community service includes performances at the Stollery Children's Hospital, Edmonton's Maximum Security Institution, the Marian Centre, Edmonton City Hall and Newman Theological College. In June 2022, *Kappella Kyrie* partnered with Richard Eaton Singers for a special fundraising concert at Edmonton's Winspear Centre, that raised \$22,000 for those who have recently moved to Edmonton and area, as they flee the war in Ukraine.



SHUMAYELA



Shumayela, a choir for treble and changing voices, is an ensemble that is devoted to expanding its horizons and developing a variety of musical tastes. The choir has toured throughout British Columbia and Alberta, performed in Ottawa at the Unisong festival for Canada Day, was featured at the international choral festival, Festival 500 in Newfoundland, and in May 2016 the group was highlighted at the prestigious biennial choral conference for Canada, Podium. Recent highlights include a tour to Germany to perform as part of the Dresden International Children's Choir Festival in the spring of 2018, a tour to New York City to sing at Carnegie Hall in the spring of 2019, and then a performance as special guests of the Alberta Children's Choir in 2022. Wherever the choir travels, they spread the joy of music-making and hope to bring communities together through song.

MELANIE TURGEON



Melanie Turgeon began studying conducting at the age of 16, under the tutelage of Wolodymyr Kolesnyk, former conductor of Kyiv State Opera and Ballet Theatre. She completed her postsecondary education at the University of Alberta (BA Hons Mus and M Mus), followed by the University of Illinois (DMA). Dr. Turgeon is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at The King's University in Edmonton, Alberta, and Adjunct Professor at Cape Breton University in Sydney, Nova Scotia. She has conducted many choirs and ensembles and has presented research at several academic institutions and conferences both in Canada and internationally. Melanie has also toured extensively with her choirs, including three successful European tours. From 2002-2018, she served as Music Director and Cantor at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Edmonton. She has published various musical resources for the Ukrainian Catholic Church, notably a hymnal with an accompanying five-CD set, *Sing to Our God* (2008), which has been distributed throughout the world. Other highlights in Dr. Turgeon's research endeavors include the publication of a book entitled, *Composing the Sacred in Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia* (2008), three recordings with *Heruvymy* Ukrainian Female Quartet, and one with King's Choirs. In 2010 she founded *Kappella Kyrie*, an award-winning chamber choir primarily devoted to Slavic sacred music. For many years she has been involved with the Ukrainian Art Song Project (UASP), presently serving as the co-director and a faculty member of the annual Summer Institute.

KIMBERLEY DENIS



Kimberley Denis is known for her energy and enthusiasm both on stage and off, and is sought after as a soloist, vocal coach, choral clinician, and adjudicator for voice and choir. Upon completion of both a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Music degree at Mount Allison University, she returned to Alberta to complete Master degrees in both choral conducting and vocal performance. Vocal credits include starring in a year-long tour with Up With People, as well as productions of Jason Robert Brown's song cycle *Songs for a New World*, as Cathy in *The Last Five Years*, and as Kate in *Kiss Me, Kate!* She is also a singer with Edmonton's professional choir, Pro Coro Canada and has toured extensively as a singer with the world percussion group, the Jamani Duo. In addition to her stage work, she has a flourishing voice studio at her own music school – the Purple Door Music Academy and is also the voice instructor at The King's University in Edmonton. She has conducted a wide variety of ensembles across the country and presently directs Shumayela (a choir for treble and changing voices for singers between the ages of 11 and 16) with the Kokopelli Choir Association and the Lynne Singers (a non-auditioned adult community ensemble). In addition to her work as a singer, teacher, conductor and adjudicator, she arranges pieces for choirs.

ALENA MALYKHINA



Alena Malykhina is junior high honour-roll student at Victoria School of the Performing Arts and has been singing for nearly 10 years. She first started her music journey when she was five, taking piano lessons and singing with Edmonton Young Voices, and now studies piano and voice as well as sings with Shumayela (a youth choir which is part of the Kokopelli Choir Association). Alena has completed her Royal Conservatory of Music exams and achieved first class honours with distinction in levels 3, 6, and 7 piano, level 6 theory, and level 6 voice. She also received the RCM gold medal for earning the highest exam mark in Alberta, Nunavut, and Northwest Territories for her level 6 voice exam. During the 2020 and 2022 season, Alena was selected to participate in the Alberta Children's Choir, learning many stories, techniques, and songs from their guest conductors. She has also attended many dance festivals and competitions in Edmonton and surrounding areas.

MARNIE GIESBRECHT



A passionate keyboard artist, **Marnie Giesbrecht** performs and records as organ soloist, collaborative musician (organ, piano, harpsichord) and with Joachim Segger as *Duo Majoya*. Dr. Giesbrecht is Professor Emerita at the University of Alberta (1988 to 2014), Adjunct Professor of Music at The King's University, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

An enthusiast and advocate for the development of organ music in Edmonton and Canada, Marnie has served in many local, regional and national leadership roles in the Royal Canadian College of Organists; she serves on a variety of local, national and international competition juries and panels. CD recordings include solo organ, collaborative organ works, piano duets, and duets for the combination of organ and piano. A broad range of duet repertoire is also recorded on the *Duo Majoya* Youtube channel.

Marnie Giesbrecht and Joachim Segger are *Duo Majoya*, the uniquely versatile and innovative keyboard team that tours extensively and performs a distinctive repertoire of commissioned, original and arranged works. Commissions include more than twenty pieces for organ duet and organ/piano by Canadian and international composers. The duo was inducted into the Edmonton Cultural Hall of Fame (2014) for their individual careers and exceptional work as *Duo Majoya* and were named Honorary Fellows of the Royal Canadian College of Organists (2015). The duo serve First Presbyterian Church in Edmonton as Music Directors.

MARK SEGGER



Mark Segger plays percussion, drums, and composes. He is a member of UltraViolet, Damn Magpies, and is involved with varieties of projects in contemporary composition, jazz, and improvisation. Mark makes frequent appearances in the percussion section of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, with New Music Edmonton, often leads the Experimental Improvisation Ensemble (XImE) at U of A and teaches Tonal Harmony at King's University. He is a Killam Scholar at the University of Alberta, with a Doctor of Music degree in composition forthcoming.

Mark received a Master of Music degree from the University of Toronto and studied drum set with Canadian jazz legend Terry Clarke. He furthered his musical development at SIM (School for Improvised Music) in Brooklyn and at the Banff Jazz Workshop. Mark has performed with many improvisers, including Lina Allemano, Dave Burrell, Nate Wooley, and Steve Swell. He has released two critically acclaimed recordings with the Toronto-based Mark Segger Sextet, *The Beginning* (2011) and *Lift Off* (2020). Recent recordings as a collaborator include Dwennimen's *The Bellow Project* (2021) and selections on Emilie LeBel's field studies (2023). Mark recently composed ASMR for Saxophone Quartet (2022), commissioned by the Proteus Saxophone Quartet, to be video premiered in summer 2023. While touring the world with *West Side Story*, Mark secured a spot on the photo wall at Sama Curry in Hong Kong for finishing a bowl at spice level 30.

Keri Lynn Zwicker



Keri Lynn Zwicker is a versatile musician who is sought after as a soloist, teacher and side musician in both Celtic and Classical realms. She holds an ARCT in piano performance from the Royal Conservatory and a Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts from the University of Alberta.

She tours internationally with David Wilkie's band Cowboy Celtic, plays second harp with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and leads a trio of musicians in her solo project "HarpRouge."

Keri Lynn has independently released three CD's of her arrangements of traditional music that feature her gaelic-styled vocals and Alberta-built carbon fibre harp.

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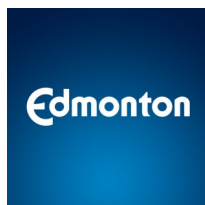
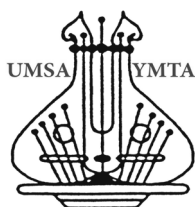
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SING WITH US!

Kappella Kyrie is holding voice placements for the upcoming 2023 -2024 season. If you are interested, please contact Melanie Turgeon at **melanie.turgeon@kingsu.ca**

APPRENTICE CONDUCTOR

In 2022 *Kappella Kyrie* established a conducting apprenticeship. Rigel Rendón has been the first person to assume this role. If you are interested in applying to be *Kappella Kyrie's* Apprentice Conductor for the 2023-24 season please contact Melanie Turgeon for application details at **melanie.turgeon@kingsu.ca**



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