



present

Earth and Heaven

Sunday, December 4, 2022
3:00pm

St. John's United Church,
262 Randall St., Oakville

Megan Miceli, Soprano
Rachel Miller, Mezzo Soprano
David Walsh, Tenor
Michael Robert-Broder, Bass-Baritone

Oakville Choir for Children & Youth's A Few Good Men
Walter Mahabir, Conductor

Toronto Mozart Players

David Simon, Organist

David Bowser, Artistic Director and Conductor

Land Acknowledgement

Oakville, as we know it today, is rich in the history and modern traditions of many First Nations and the Métis. From the lands of the Anishinabe to the Attawandaron, the Haudenosaunee, and the Métis, these lands surrounding the Great Lakes are steeped in Indigenous history. We are in solidarity with Indigenous brothers and sisters to honour and respect the four directions, lands, waters, plants, animals and ancestors that walked before us, and the wonderful elements of creation that exist.



Office of the Mayor

Town of Oakville

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December 2022

To the Oakville Choral Society Audience:

Welcome to the Oakville Choral's "Earth and Heaven" concert.

This afternoon we are being treated to the World Premiere of Music Director David Bowser's original work, "The Earth Spins Her Eternal Force" along with performances by a Few Good Men from the Oakville Choir for Children and Youth. Oakville Choral will also be singing Beethoven's Mass in C major, Op.86.

In the months ahead, Oakville Choral will provide wonderful performances continuing a fine tradition beginning in 1960 of providing choral music to community members. The longest running choir in Oakville contributes to a more Livable Oakville community. The concerts promise to showcase exceptional music and outstanding talent.

I extend very best wishes to all – maestro, musicians and audience – for an inspiring event.

Season Greetings,

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Burton'.

**Rob Burton, Mayor
TOWN OF OAKVILLE**

Concert Programme

(no intermission)

The Earth Spins Her Eternal Force (world premiere)

Words and Music by David Bowser

The Rainbow Connection

Lyrics and Music by Paul Williams and Kenny Ascher

Arranged by Hawley Ades

Performed by A Few Good Men

from the Oakville Choir for Children & Youth

Largo from Symphony No 9, "from the New World"

Antonin Dvorak

Presentation of nature photographs

contributed by members of our community

Mass in C major, Op. 86

Ludwig van Beethoven

Kyrie

Gloria

Credo

Sanctus

Benedictus

Agnus Dei

Program Notes

by David Bowser

The Earth Spins Her Eternal Force, a new work scored for soprano solo, choir, organ and strings is a call to action. The original text addresses the environmental challenges faced by our planet and the precarious state of many species and ecosystems. The concept of the Earth as a spaceship was developed by Buckminster Fuller in the late 1960's and provoked a shift toward global perspective and awareness of the finite resources and vulnerabilities of our planet. This composition speaks to the fact that we are the ones who have fallen out of balance with our spaceship host, and we are the only ones who can find a way forward to save our fellow earthlings and ourselves. If we cannot find a way together, the Earth will keep spinning without us, polluted, abused, ravaged, perhaps to recover only after we are gone.

Beethoven was a lover of nature. He walked daily in the forests around Vienna and was continually inspired by the natural beauty around him. The *Mass in C* was commissioned by the Esterhazy's, a noble Hungarian family whose loyalty to the reigning Habsburg monarchy over the centuries enhanced their wealth and established them as one of the most powerful princedoms in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Beethoven composed his Mass for performance at the summer residence in Eisenstadt where Prince Esterhazy had established an impressive court in the countryside. The pastoral characteristics of the *Mass* with serene melodies, stormy dramatic contrasts, and warmth of choral and orchestral colour are perfectly matched to the location and occasion. Expecting more of the traditional conventions found in the masses of Haydn, who had been court composer and music director for many years, Beethoven's new Mass failed to please the Prince. Today, however, we recognize the remarkable breadth of expression and masterful innovation of Beethoven's extraordinary *Mass in C*.

We are thrilled to welcome our outstanding soloists, the superb Toronto Mozart Players and A Few Good Men from the Oakville Choir for Children and Youth to perform with Oakville Choral in this program. Also, it is a pleasure to share photography submitted by members of the community to celebrate our love of nature and invite contemplation around the future of our local environment and the planet as a whole.

David Bowser, Artistic Director, Conductor and Composer

David is Artistic Director of the Mozart Project which operates the Toronto Mozart Players, Toronto Mozart Choir and Toronto Mozart Vocal Competition. He is also music director of the Oakville Choral Society and Musical Acts of Kindness.



David has conducted music for opera, ballet, film, television and the concert stage, and has performed in Canada, the United States, Japan, Belgium, France, Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. He has been music director of the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Brantford Symphony Orchestra, North York Concert Orchestra and Hart House Chorus. He has also served as resident conductor of the Orchestre Symphonique de Québec and assistant conductor of the Nova Scotia Opera. David has conducted the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Waterloo Chamber Players, Hart House Orchestra, Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra, and has performed at the Nassau City Opera in the Bahamas, and the Flanders Music Festival in Belgium.

In tandem with his career on the podium, David has composed chamber, orchestral, choral and multi-media works, often exploring humanity's connectedness to nature. His chamber compositions have been performed by prominent Canadian musicians including cellist Igor Geffer, violinist Leslie Dawn Knowles, Soprano Melanie Conly and pianist Peter Longworth. His larger works have been performed by professional and community orchestras and community choirs in Ontario. Recent commissions include Sonata for Unaccompanied Trumpet for Toronto Symphony Orchestra principal trumpet Andrew McCandless, The Forest for the Toronto Mozart Players, and Clouds for Oakville Choral.

David earned his Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Toronto specializing in eighteenth-century string and vocal performance practices. He holds a Master of Music degree in composition from the University of Toronto and a Diplôme d'Etudes supérieures II (Master's Degree) in conducting from the Conservatoire de Musique in Montreal. His vocal training with esteemed pedagogue Marie Daveluy inspired a life-long passion for the voice. He continued studies in orchestral and operatic conducting at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Vienna with Leopold Hager and entered the summer conducting classes of Gianluigi Gelmetti at the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, Italy.

Megan Miceli, Soprano Soloist

Canadian Soprano Megan Miceli (she/her) is a singer and musical director, as well as a proud arts educator and creator who is passionate about accessibility and using her voice to champion inclusivity within the performing arts community. She has been praised for her "bright, pure, well focused high lyric soprano" (Musical Toronto). Recent performance highlights include Spotlight: Out on a Limb with Amplified Opera and Considering Matthew Shepard with Pax Christi Chorale. Other role highlights include Mother/Gravedigger/Guilt Spectre in the world premiere of Ghost Opera, commissioned by The Old Trout Puppet Workshop, the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, and Calgary Opera, Papagena (The Magic Flute), Morgana (Alcina), and Despina (Cosi fan tutte). Concert performances include appearances with Tapestry Opera, Oakville Choral, the Toronto Mozart Players, BrottOpera, Opera 5, and the Toronto Mozart Choir, among others.



Megan was a member of Calgary Opera's Emerging Artist Development Program for their 2018-2019 season. She holds a Graduate Diploma in Performance and a Masters in Music in Voice and Opera from McGill University. Megan was an Artist Fellow with the Association for Opera in Canada's RBC LINK Emerging Artist Program and a resident with the Banff Centre for Performing Arts' Opera in the 21st Century digital program for the 2020-2021 season. Most recently, Megan was honoured to be a guest panelist for Theatre Passe Muraille's Prelude: Access in Classical Music and Opera".

Rachel Miller, Mezzo-Soprano Soloist

Canadian Mezzo-Soprano Rachel Miller is a multi-disciplinary performer who finds expression through voice, acting and dance. In the 2022/2023 season Rachel sings with the Canadian Opera Company Chorus in Bizet's Carmen, Wagner's The Flying Dutchman, and Verdi's MacBeth; and performs as a soloist with the Toronto Beach Chorale, Mississauga Chamber Singers and Oakville Choral Society.



Rachel was a prize winner of the 2020 Toronto Mozart Vocal Competition. Past highlights include Lola in Cavalleria Rusticana (Toronto City Opera); Mercedes in Carmen under the Stars with Julie Nesrallah (Honens); Ramiro in La finta giardiniera (Accademia Europea Dell'Opera); Hansel in Hansel and Gretel (Glenn Gould School); as well as performances with Tapestry Opera, Toronto Mozart Players, and Toronto-based OperaQ.

Based in Toronto, Rachel received an Artist Diploma from the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music, and holds an Honours B.Sc. in Psychology and Linguistics from the University of Toronto. Rachel has over 20 years of dance training.

David Walsh, Tenor Soloist

David Walsh, born and raised in Toronto, recently finished his Diploma of Opera Performance at the University of Toronto with Honours, after a Bachelor of Music in Performance there in 2020.

From there David has participated in a wide range of vocal performances. In the winter of 2023, David will be making his debut with the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Il Barbiere di Siviglia as Count Almaviva. In fall 2022, David will be singing with the Canadian Opera Company Chorus in both Bizet's Carmen and Wagner's The Flying Dutchman. He made his role debut as Martin in Aaron Copland's opera The Tender Land in Spring 2022 with U of T Opera. A highlight of 2022 was when he was asked to perform as the Tenor soloist in Carl Orff's Carmina Burana with Chorus Niagara and Robert Cooper. At U of T Opera in Fall 2021, he made his role debut as Count Almaviva in Il Barbiere di Siviglia.



As well as an avid singer, David is an avid biker. This form of transportation is the way he practices a lot of his repertoire. So, if you ever see a blur of red hair and hear some Rossini or Fauré on the downtown streets of Toronto, you have most likely encountered David Walsh.

Michael Robert-Broder, Baritone Soloist

Toronto based Baritone, Michael Robert-Broder (He/Him) is an engaging performer who has crafted an enviable career balanced between recital, oratorio, and opera engagements.



Described as “smooth mellifluous baritone of a Gerald Finley or a Hermann Prey” (barczablog.com - Fidelio), he has specialized in the performance of German language opera and lieder above all else. As Faninal in Der Rosenkavalier he “sang an impressive “Ein ernster Tag, ein grosser Tag” (ludwig-van.com) and as Jochanaan he gave “a stunningly lyrical reading of this role...singing a smoothly lyrical line throughout, putting out a fabulous wall of sound from time to time, always on pitch and never harsh sounding.” (barczablog.com). In his portrayal of Nabucco he “sang solidly and with emotional range too.” (operaramblings.blog), as Dr. Falke he was praised for his “warm baritone” (Opera Canada), and in his premiere of The Ecstasy of Rita Joe he “fashioned a brilliantly conflicted Magistrate, stern and compassionate, cynical and resigned” (operagoto.com).

Upcoming engagements include Bach’s Christmas Oratorio and Amore Traditore, Liszt’s Cantico del sol, Handel’s Messiah, Sullivan’s Ivanhoe, Donizetti’s Elisabetta, Debussy’s La Chute de la maison Usher, Bartok’s Bluebeard’s Castle, Britten’s Noye’s Fludde, Mozart’s Die Zauberflöte and Missa Brevis, recitals of Verdi and Puccini arias and duets, a recital of Canadian art song, and a recording of music for voice and organ.

David Simon, Organist

David Simon is a recitalist, improviser, instructor, and liturgical musician. He first studied music as a chorister at St. Michael’s Cathedral-Basilica in Toronto and continues to play organ at its weekly masses. He teaches organ, piano, music theory, and Gregorian Chant at St. Michael’s Choir School. By fully embracing digital media, his private music studio extends to students across North America.



David is the First Prize winner of the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) national organ competition and the University of Michigan organ improvisation competition. He is a Fellow of the RCCO and he will receive his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from Yale University in May of 2023 at university convocation.

Walter Mahabir, Conductor, Oakville Choir for Children & Youth

Walter Mahabir is a Toronto-born choral conductor, singer and music pedagogue who works with various choral ensembles in the Greater Toronto Area. He received his Master of Music degree in choral conducting at McGill University and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in classical voice from York University.



Aside from his appointment as conductor of A Few Good Men, Walter is also the newly appointed Choral Conductor for Community Music Schools of Toronto, offering music programs to children in the Regent Park and Jane & Finch areas. In addition, Mahabir serves as the Assistant Conductor of the Resound Choir (Durham), and currently sings with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir (Pro Core).

Oakville Choral

Soprano

Susan Chan***
Miriam Lea-Clarke***
Wendy Donnan
Virginia Fletcher***
Colette Janssens
Sandra Litt***
Debra MacLeod***
Joanne MacNair
Sonya Harper Nyby*
Shelly Sanders
Judith Setton
Sara Simon-Vermot**
Elaine Smyer
Barbara Wood

Alto

Nadeen Black
Karina Bray*
Pauline Bragdon
Birgit Brand***
Joan Cooke
Carmen Cozzarini
Diane Kolin**
Heather McLennan
Barbara Nixon***
Charlotte Sanders***
Suzanne Stolz
Christine Vernon***

Tenor

Murray Anderson
James Fletcher
Richard Marshall
Brain McIntosh
Alain Paquette*

Bass

David Mutimer
Roger Neuman
Allan Olley
Lutzen Riedstra*
Keith Spicer

* Section lead

** Guest

*** Board of Directors

Oakville Choir for Children & Youth A Few Good Men Ensemble

James Aquino
Ryan Aselstyne
Temi Bamigbola
Leif Bernal-Manninen
Cody Black
Connor Coulter
Julian Eden
Leo Gleadow
Razeen Kassam
Oren Lasko
Lucas Liu

Ned Long
Patrick Long
Thomas McLean
Gabriel Montero-Herrera
Noah Pace
Brian Romanell
Freddie Vandeppeer
Jacob Waisman
Tristen Wang
Aria Waseem
Luan Yao

Toronto Mozart Players

Alex Toskov, first violin
Emily Sun, second violin
Matt Antal, viola
Samuel Bisson, cello
Peter Pavlovsky, double bass

Texts

The Earth Spins Her Eternal Force

The Earth spins her eternal force,
A spaceship host and provider for her creatures.
Her cloudy countenance betrays her sorrow.
Fallen trees and melting icecaps lay bare her torments.

We, too, were once the Earth, her sky and water.
But we have lost our way and we have lost our balance.
We have pushed nature away from us.
We have forgotten how to sing and dance.

The Earth will spin long after we are gone.
Dare we think she will remember us as her children
Once she ceases to weep?

The Rainbow Connection

Why are there so many songs about rainbows and what's on the other side?
Rainbows are visions, but only illusions, and rainbows have nothing to hide. So
we've been told and some choose to believe it. I know they're wrong, wait and
see. Someday we'll find it, the rainbow connection. The lovers, the dreamers and
me.

Who said that every wish would be heard and answered when wished on the
morning star? Somebody thought of that and someone believed it. Look what it's
done so far. What's so amazing that keeps us stargazing and what do we think
we might see? Someday we'll find it, the rainbow connection. The lovers, the
dreamers and me.

All of us under its spell. We know that it's probably magic.

Have you been half asleep and have you heard voices? I've heard them calling
my name. Is this the sweet sound that called the young sailors. The voice might
be one and the same. I've heard it too many times to ignore it. It's something that
I'm supposed to be. Someday we'll find it, the rainbow connection. The lovers,
the dreamers and me.

Mass in C major, Op. 86

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Et in terra
pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter
magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens. Domine
Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris. Qui tollis
peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
Suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere Patris, miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus.
Tu solus Dominus.
Tu solus Altissimus,
Jesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu,
in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.

Credo in unum Deum.
Patrem omnipotentem,
factorem caeli et terrae,
visibilium omnium et invisibilium.
Et in unum Dominum,
Jesum Christum
Filium Dei unigenitum,
Et ex Patre natum
ante omnia saecula.
Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine,
Deum verum de Deo vero.
Genitum, non factum,
consubstantialem Patri:
per quem omnia facta sunt.
Qui propter nos homines
et propter nostram salutem
descendit de caelis.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Glory be to God on high, and on earth
peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for
thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty. O Lord,
the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father, that takest away the
sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the
world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God
the Father, have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only art most high,
O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible
And in one Lord,
Jesus Christ,
Only begotten Son of God,
Begotten of his Father
before all worlds.
God of God, light of light,
Very God of very God.
Begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father:
by whom all things were made.
Who for us men
and for our salvation
came down from heaven.

Et incarnatus est de
Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine:
Et homo factus est.
Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub
Pontio Pilato:
passus, et sepultus est.
Et resurrexit tertia die,
secundum scripturas.

Et ascendit in caelum: sedet ad
dexteram Patris.
Et iterum venturus est cum gloria
iudicare vivos et mortuos:
Cujus regni non erit finis.
Et in Spiritum sanctum Dominum,
et vivificantem: Qui
ex Patre, Filioque procedit.
Qui cum Patre, et Filio simul
Adoratur, et conglorificatur:
Qui locutus est per Prophetas.
Et unam, sanctam, catholicam et
apostolicam Ecclesiam.
Confiteor unum baptisma
in remissionem peccatorum.
Et expecto resurrectionem
mortuorum
Et vitam venturi saeculi.
Amen.

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Osanna in excelsis.

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

And was incarnate by the
Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary:
And was made man.
And was crucified also for us under
Pontius Pilate:
suffered, and was buried.
And the third day He rose again
according to the scriptures.

And ascended into heaven, and sitteth
at the right hand of the Father
And He shall come again with glory
to judge the living and the dead:
His kingdom shall have no end.
And (I believe in) the Holy Ghost, Lord
and giver of life: Who
proceedeth from the Father and Son.
Who with the Father and Son
together is worshipped and glorified:
Who spake by the Prophets.
And in one holy catholic and
Apostolic church.
I acknowledge one baptism
for the remission of sins.
And I look for the resurrection
of the dead
And the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Holy, holy, holy
Lord God of Hosts.
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 take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
who take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God,
who take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

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Oakville Choral appreciates the ongoing support of **Scott Funeral Home Mississauga** for their storage of our music resources.

<https://oakvillechoral.com>

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