



G.F. HANDEL

# Messiah

AT  
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,  
TORONTO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023  
7:30 P.M.

SOPRANO: *Anna Kwiatkowska*

MEZZO SOPRANO: *Christina Stelmacovich*

TENOR: *Jacob Abrahamse*

BASS-BARITONE: *Dion Mazerolle*

*The Choir of St. James Cathedral*

*The Chapel Choir of Trinity College, University of Toronto*

*The Orchestra of St. James*

CONDUCTOR: *Thomas W. D. Bell*

THIS PERFORMANCE IS DEDICATED TO THE PEACEMAKERS  
"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND PEACE ON EARTH"

# *The Programme*

## PART I

### SINFONIA (OVERTURE)

RECITATIVE (TENOR) *Comfort ye my people*

AIR (TENOR) *Ev'ry valley shall be exalted*

CHORUS *And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed*

RECITATIVE (BASS-BARITONE) *Thus saith the Lord of Hosts*

AIR (SOPRANO) *But who may abide the day of His coming*

CHORUS *And He shall purify the sons of Levi*

RECITATIVE (ALTO) *Behold, a virgin shall conceive*

AIR (ALTO AND CHORUS) *O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion*

RECITATIVE (BASS-BARITONE) *For behold, darkness shall cover the earth*

AIR (BASS-BARITONE) *The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light*

CHORUS *For unto us a Child is born*

PIFA *Pastoral Symphony*

RECITATIVE (SOPRANO) *There were shepherds abiding in the field*

CHORUS *Glory to God in the highest*

AIR (SOPRANO) *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion*

CHORUS *His yoke is easy*

## INTERMISSION OF 20 MINUTES

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### FROM THE ORIGINAL PROGRAMME NOTES:

*In order to free up space for more patrons, it was requested that  
"ladies are requested to wear dresses without hoops,  
and gentlemen are requested to remove their swords."*

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## PART II

CHORUS *Behold the Lamb of God*

AIR (ALTO) *He was despised*

CHORUS *Surely, He hath borne our griefs*

CHORUS *And with His stripes we are healed.*

CHORUS *All we like sheep have gone astray*

RECITATIVE (TENOR) *All they that see Him laugh Him to scorn*

CHORUS *He trusted in God that He would deliver Him*

RECITATIVE (TENOR) *Thy rebuke hath broken His heart*

AIR (TENOR) *Behold, and see if there be any sorrow*

RECITATIVE (TENOR) *He was cut off out of the land of the living*

AIR (TENOR) *But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell*

AIR (BASS-BARITONE) *Why do the nations so furiously rage together*

CHORUS *Let us break their bonds asunder*

RECITATIVE (TENOR) *He that dwelleth in heaven*

AIR (TENOR) *Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron*

CHORUS *Hallelujah!*

## PART III

AIR (SOPRANO) *I know that my Redeemer liveth*

CHORUS *Since by man came death*

RECITATIVE (BASS-BARITONE) *Behold, I tell you a mystery*

AIR (BASS-BARITONE) *The trumpet shall sound*

CHORUS *Worthy is the Lamb that was slain*

CHORUS *Amen*

# The Performers

## THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR OF ST. JAMES AND FRIENDS

SOPRANO	ALTO	TENOR	BASS
<i>Emily Clarke</i>	<i>+Susan Bell</i>	<i>Charlie Davidson</i>	<i>David Campbell</i>
<i>Leandra Dahm</i>	<i>Duncan Campbell</i>	<i>Tim Gordon</i>	<i>Jean Paul Feo</i>
<i>Heather Jewell</i>	<i>Anne Compagnie</i>	<i>Peter Mowat</i>	<i>Chun Lo</i>
<i>Sheila Mattar</i>	<i>Jane Forner</i>	<i>Joshua Stafford</i>	<i>David Mowat</i>
<i>Ineza Mugisha</i>	<i>Barbara Gowdy</i>	<i>Jonathan Stuchbery</i>	<i>Henry Paterson</i>
<i>++Linda Nicholls</i>	<i>Marilyn Mercer</i>		<i>+Peter Wall</i>
<i>Kayla Ruiz</i>	<i>Sarah Mole</i>		<i>Jacob Wiens</i>
	<i>Alex Rojik</i>		
	<i>Taya Rosenberg</i>		
	<i>Anika Venkatesh</i>		

## THE CHAPEL CHOIR OF TRINITY COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

SOPRANO	ALTO	TENOR	BASS
<i>Mairi Cowan</i>	<i>Yuet Ting Chiu</i>	<i>Jordan Baldwin</i>	<i>Peter Bayer</i>
<i>Marieke de Korte</i>	<i>Megan Glassford</i>	<i>David Barber</i>	<i>Sean Coomey</i>
<i>Jenny Griffin</i>	<i>Jenny Griffin</i>	<i>Ben Whitehouse</i>	<i>Lucas Gregory</i>
<i>Bronte Ibbotson</i>	<i>Tamar Meparishvili</i>		<i>Ezra Jacobs</i>
<i>Jiwoo Jeon</i>	<i>Celine Yang</i>		<i>Kaelem Moniz</i>
<i>Rachael Krestick</i>			<i>Evan Tanovich</i>
<i>Chloe Nguyen</i>			
<i>Abigail Potter</i>			
<i>Mara Tanovich</i>			

## THE ORCHESTRA OF ST. JAMES

VIOLIN I	VIOLA	OBOES	TIMPANI
<i>Michelle Odorico</i>	<i>Amanda Penner</i>	<i>Vicki Hathaway,</i>	<i>John Brownell</i>
<i>(Concertmaster),</i>		<i>Daniel Brielmeier</i>	
<i>Allene Chomyn,</i>	CELLO		CONTINUO
<i>Jenn Martyn</i>	<i>Laura Jones</i>	BASSOON	<i>Nathan Jeffery,</i>
		<i>Anna Norris</i>	<i>Jonathan Oldengarm</i>
VIOLIN II	BASS		
<i>Valerie Gordon,</i>	<i>Calum MacLeod</i>	TRUMPETS	
<i>Rezan Onen-Lapointe</i>		<i>Shawn Spicer,</i>	
		<i>Matheus Moraes</i>	

## HOPE FLYNN, GRAPHIC ARTIST

Hope is painting an image inspired by the theme of Messiah. This work of art is being auctioned. The reserve price is \$200. *Details of Hope's work and her fabulous biography are available at [hopeflynn.com](http://hopeflynn.com).*

OUR PROFOUND THANKS ARE OFFERED TO EVERYONE WHO HAS HELPED  
IN ANY AND EVERY WAY TO PRESENT THIS EVENING'S CONCERT:  
OUR MUSICIANS, ARTISTS, CATHEDRAL STAFF, AND MANY KIND VOLUNTEERS.



# *The Soloists*



ANNA KWIATKOWSKA, SOPRANO

Anna Kwiatkowska is a soprano and violist, originally from Poland. After graduating from Music Academy in Lodz, Poland, where she received MMus in viola and in vocal and acting performance, she continued her education at the University of California in Los Angeles, CA (UCLA, Faculty of Opera Performance). Ms. Kwiatkowska's operatic roles include Tytania in Britten's "Midsummer Night's Dream" (UCLA), Rosina in Rossini's "Il barbiere di Siviglia", Despina in Mozart's "Così fan tutte" and Sandrina in "La Cecchina by Piccini (Musiakademie Rheinsberg).

Apart from her work as a soloist, Ms. Kwiatkowska has always had a strong interest in choral singing. From early childhood she regularly participated in choral courses in Poland and abroad (Landesakademie Ochsenhausen) and performed in professional settings (Philharmonic in Lodz, Poland, Grand Theatre in Lodz, Poland). In 2008, as a member of Wroclaw Philharmonic choir, she had the privilege to join the famous Gabrieli Consort and Players ensemble, directed by Paul McCreesh. The concert tour with Gabrieli included performances at Salle Pleyel in Paris, Barbican Centre and Albert Hall in London (BBC proms festival). In Canada, Ms. Kwiatkowska has appeared with Opera Atelier, Gryphon Trio, Tafelmusik Choir, Toronto Chamber Choir and St. James Cathedral Choir.



CHRISTINA STELMACHOVICH, MEZZO SOPRANO

A native of Toronto, Canada, mezzo soprano Christina Stelmachovich is a winner of several international vocal competitions. Her singing has been described as "...stylistically spot-on and vocally splendid." (Dave Richards, Toronto Concert Reviews). Her career has included performances in Canada, the United States, Austria, Italy, England and Mexico. Christina has appeared as a soloist with some of the most prestigious choirs and orchestras some of which include the City of Birmingham Choir and the Renaissance Singers of England, The Elora Singers, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, Tafelmusik Baroque Choir and Orchestra, Early Music Vancouver, Early Music Voices of Calgary, the Grand Philharmonic Choir of Kitchener and the New World Orchestra of Mexico City. Equally comfortable on the soloist's stage as well as singing with professional vocal ensembles, Christina is currently a member of The Elora Singers. When not performing, Christina works as the Manager of the Elora Festival and Singers, as an adjudicator with the Kiwanis Music Festival and as a Mom.



JACOB ABRAHAMSE, TENOR

In the 2023/2024 season, Jacob Abrahamse performed Alfredo in Verdi's *La Traviata* (Brott Opera). He was also the tenor soloist in the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir's presentation of Bach's Mass in B Minor at Koerner Hall. This season, Abrahamse joins the Santa Fe Opera as an Apprentice Singer, an internationally recognized program that is one of the finest of its kind. In concert, Abrahamse will perform as the tenor soloist in two performances of G.F. Handel's *Messiah*. First, with choir and orchestra at St. James Cathedral. Second, with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in a benefit concert for United Way. Abrahamse will also perform as the tenor soloist in W.A. Mozart's *Requiem* with the Toronto Beach Chorale and Orchestra. He will reprise this oratorio with the Mississauga Chamber Singers and Orchestra.

Abrahamse debuted at Roy Thomson Hall as a tenor soloist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir in Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. He also made his operatic debut by creating the starring role of the Holy Child in the Dora-award-winning premiere of R. Murray Schafer's opera, *The Children's Crusade*.



#### **DION MAZEROLLE, BARITONE**

Acadian baritone Dion Mazerolle has forged a solid reputation in Canada and Europe as an artist of the highest calibre. A former member of the *Atelier lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal*, he is acclaimed for his musical finesse and strong stage presence, both in opera and in concert. Dion recently made his debut as Golaud in Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*, created by the Barbe & Doucet design team at the *Teatri di Piacenza* in Italy and debuted as *le Roi de Trèfle* in Prokofiev's surreal opera *L'Amour des trois oranges* with *Opera National de Lorraine* in Nancy, France. In 2024, Dion joins the cast as *Osman* in Rameau's *Les Indes Galante*, with *Nouvel Opéra Métropolitain/Festival Classica*.

Dion has performed with many of Canada's orchestras, choirs and chamber ensembles including the *Elmer Iseler Singers*, the *Grand Philharmonic Choir*, *Festival International de Musique Baroque de Lamèque*, and *Regina Symphony Orchestra*.

Dion's concert engagements this season include *Carmina Burana* with the *Guelph Chamber Choir*, *Haydn's Creation* with *Galileo Orchestre* and *Don Quichotte chez la Duchesse* (*Boismortier*) with *Ensemble Caprice*. He returns to Kitchener as a guest soloist in *Estacio's The Houses Stand not Far Apart* and *Mozart's Requiem*, with *Grand Philharmonic Choir*.



#### **THOMAS BELL, CONDUCTOR**

Thomas Bell is a church musician, composer, and teacher.

His early musical education was as a boy chorister at *Salisbury Cathedral*, England, where in addition to singing for the daily choral services he played the flute, violin, and piano. His subsequent musical studies at *Durham University*, were augmented by flute lessons with two teachers: *Patricia Morris* (*BBC Symphony*) and *David Haslam* (*Northern Sinfonia of England*). Tom then taught music at several schools in Oxford and London, including *New College Choir School* and the *Dragon School*, Oxford. During this time, he directed several professional instrumental and choral ensembles specializing in early music.

Tom later immigrated to Toronto, Canada, where together with Susan, they have lived and worked and raised their family for over thirty years. Tom directed the *150-voice Mississauga Children's Choir* for sixteen years, winning many competitions including the *CBC Choral Competition* (children's choirs category), and touring across Canada and abroad. He also taught class music at the *Toronto French School* for nearly thirty years.

His compositions are published by *Oxford University Press*, *Boosey and Hawkes*, *Alliance*, *Hinshaw*, and others.

Thomas is presently *Director of Music and Organist* at *Trinity College*, *University of Toronto*; and at *St. James Cathedral*, Toronto.

# *The Restoration of the Organ of St. James Cathedral*

We are most fortunate at St. James Cathedral to have such a fine and historic organ. It is played every day for worship, practice, teaching, and the popular lunchtime recitals. The new console has added immeasurably to the instrument, a perfect marriage of the latest technology and traditional artistry which will last for many generations.

In its original form, the organ dates from 1853 when Samuel Warren of Montreal was commissioned to design an organ for the new cathedral. Over the years it has been greatly enlarged and revised, taking its present shape in 1936. However - beautiful though it is - the organ has aged and is in urgent need of restoration. Pipes are difficult to tune, there are leaks in the wind supply, and the mechanism which allows pipes to sound, including the leathers, is near the end of its life. In addition .

Much of the instrument has not been serviced for eighty years.

We would like to restore our beautiful instrument, enabling it to become the very best version of itself, allowing future generations to fully enjoy its music without the worry of constant repairs. The expertise and time required to make this happen requires financial support.

Early in the New Year we will share details of the plans formulated by Letourneau Organs, who created our beautiful console.

In the meantime, however, we would be most grateful to hear from you if you have any suggestions or questions regarding our cherished instrument. We know that it is a much-loved by the community at St. James and beyond.

Thomas Bell,  
Director of Music  
[tbell@stjamescathedral.ca](mailto:tbell@stjamescathedral.ca)



PIPES AT THE BACK OF THE CATHEDRAL



PIPES AT THE FRONT OF THE CATHEDRAL



PIPES IN NEED OF REPAIR

# *Join the Cathedral for Christmas*

CHRISTMAS EVE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

8:00 AM Said Eucharist  
9:00 AM Sung Eucharist  
11:00 AM Choral Eucharist \*  
4:00 PM Festive Organ Recital \*  
4:30 PM A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols \*  
7:30 PM Choral Eucharist \*

CHRISTMAS DAY: MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023

8:00 AM Said Eucharist  
9:00 AM Sung Eucharist  
11:00 AM Choral Eucharist \*

*\*Services will also be live-streamed on the Diocesan YouTube channel at [youtube.com/anglicandioto](https://youtube.com/anglicandioto).*

## *Sing at St. James Cathedral*

SINGING IS INTEGRAL TO OUR COMMUNITY LIFE AT ST. JAMES.

*If you enjoy singing and would like to participate in one of our choirs Thomas Bell,  
our Director of Music, who would be most happy to meet you.*

*Email: [tbell@stjamescathedral.ca](mailto:tbell@stjamescathedral.ca)*

## *Our Next Concert*

On Saturday, May 11th at 7:30 p.m. we present BACH'S GLORIOUS MAGNIFICAT.

*This concert will be in support of the St. James Outreach and Drop-In.*

*"He hath filled the hungry with good things" (FROM THE MAGNIFICAT)*

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