



G. F. HANDEL

Messiah

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
TORONTO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024
7:30 P.M.

SOPRANO: *Jane Fingler*

MEZZO SOPRANO: *Marjorie Maltais*

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

OPENING PRAYER & WELCOME

The Very Rev'd Dr. Stephen Hance, Rector of St. James Cathedral

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 (ALTO) *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*

FROM THE ORIGINAL PROGRAMME NOTES:

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

INTERMISSION OF 20 MINUTES

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

AIR (SOPRANO) *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
Jessie Adamson	+Susan Bell	Tim Gordon	David Campbell
Emily Clark	Lynn Braye +	Peter Mowat	Henry Patterson
Leandra Dahm	James Dyck	Jonathan Stuchbery	David Mowat
Heather Jewell	Jean-Paul Feo	Joshua Sutherland	
Anna Kwiatkowska	Jane Forner		
Sheila Mattang	Marilyn Mercer		
Kayla Ruiz	Sarah Mole		
Jerene Shen	Alex Rojic		
Lucy Fields			
Aria Wang			
Natasha Fransblow			

THE CHAPEL CHOIR OF TRINITY COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, AND FRIENDS

SOPRANO	ALTO	TENOR	BASS
Helen Bullock	Yut Ting Chiu	David Barber	Graham Davies
Mairi Cowan	Jenny Griffin	Charles Fowler	Daniel Garcia-Moreno
Marieka de Korte	Tamar Meparishvili	Adam MacNeil	Lucas Georgey
Audrey Franssen-Keenan	Ellie Peng	Zihan Tang	Daniel Hendrickson
Bronte Ibbotson	Julia Romocea		Ezra Jacobs
Victoria Navrante	Rebekah Stretch		Massimo Kincses
Emily Ng	Celine Yang		Lucas Livingston
Chloe Nguen	Anna Wiebe		Kaelem Moniz
Sarah Shah			Sasha Steeves

THE ORCHESTRA OF ST. JAMES

VIOLIN I	VIOLA	OBOE	TRUMPET
Christopher Verrette (Concertmaster)	Matt Antal	Gillian Howard	Norman Engel
Kenin McKay	Clara Nguyen-Tran	Victoria Hathaway	Neal Andrews
Marcus Scholtes	CELLO	BASSOON	TIMPANI
	Laura Jones	Anna Norris	John Brownell
VIOLIN II	BASS		CONTINUO
Patricia Ahern	Jesse Dietschi		Aaron James
Paul Barna			

THIS CONCERT WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE WITHOUT THE KINDNESS
OF MANY INDIVIDUALS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

*Our profound thanks are offered to everyone who has helped to present this evening's concert:
our patrons, musicians, cathedral staff and our many volunteers, unstinting with their time.*

YOUR GENEROSITY ENABLES THIS MUSIC TO FILL OUR HEARTS.

The Soloists



JANE FINGLER, SOPRANO

Jane Fingler is a Toronto-based soprano from Winnipeg who keeps very busy performing as an ensemble singer and soloist with groups such as Tafelmusik Baroque Choir, The Trinity Bach Project, The Theatre of Early Music, The Toronto Consort, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, and is a founding member of Toronto-based Diapente Renaissance Quintet (formed in 2022). Recent solo highlights include three performances of Handel's "lost" *Gloria* (HWV Deest) and Bach's *BWV 72* with the Trinity Bach Project, Handel's *Dixit Dominus* with Theatre of Early Music/U of T's Schola Cantorum, and the Toronto Mendelssohn Singers, Bach's *BWV 39* with the Oakville Community Chorus, Handel's *Brockes Passion* and Bach's *Markus Passion* with Metropolitan Festival Choir and Baroque Orchestra, and Monteverdi *Vespers* and Bach's *St. John Passion* at the Winnipeg Baroque Festival. Other past solo performances include those with the Winnipeg and Regina Symphony Orchestras, the Early Music Alberta Festival, The Okanogan Festival Chorus, The Peterborough Singers, and the Ottawa Bach Choir. She has performed various contemporary works with Toronto ensembles Choir 21 and Opus 8, and *Dead of Winter* and *Polycoro* in Winnipeg. She is also currently pursuing a DMA in Historical Performance at the University of Toronto.



MARJORIE MALTAIS, MEZZO SOPRANO

Marjorie Maltais has gained an excellent reputation on both concert and operatic stages throughout North America. A native of Clermont, Quebec, Marjorie won First Prize at the Ottawa Choral Society's *New Discoveries Competition* in 2016, leading to engagements with Grand Philharmonic Choir, Chorus Niagara, Peterborough Singers and Choeur-St-Laurent.

Recent highlights for this engaging young artist include a brilliant debut with Boston Early Music Festival in performances of *Versailles: Portrait of a Royal Domain* (Charpentier & Lalande), *Messiah* with Elmer Iseler Singers, Bach's *Magnificat* with Thirteen Strings, and the premiere of Ian Cusson's song cycle *Le Récital des Anges* (poetry by Emile Nelligan) at COC's noon hour concerts.

Marjorie has appeared as a guest soloist with Les Boréades de Montréal, with Windsor Symphony, Boise Philharmonic, Regina Symphony Orchestra, Montréal's Orchestre Métropolitain, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, and Edinburgh International Festival.

Marjorie appeared with Pacific Opera Victoria as Mercedes in *Carmen* and is a frequent guest artist with Toronto's *Voicebox: Opera in Concert*, most recently singing Erika in *Vanessa*.



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 has appeared as a soloist with many of Canada's premiere choirs and ensembles – *Carmina Burana* with the Guelph Chamber Choir, Haydn's *Creation* with Galileo Orchestra, and Bach's *Mass in B Minor* with Montreal's Ensemble Caprice. Upcoming performances include Brahms' *Requiem* with Orchestre Symphonique de l'Estuaire and Verdi's *Requiem* with Kindred Spirits Orchestra.

Dion made his debut as Golaud in Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*, 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. Critics hailed him as "dramatically and vocally outstanding" as Alberich in Wagner's *Das Rheingold* with Edmonton Opera.



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.

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 & 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.

Thank you

OUR MOST SINCERE THANKS ARE OFFERED TO THE FOLLOWING PATRONS
WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THIS CONCERT SO GENEROUSLY.

YOUR KINDNESS HAS ENABLED US TO SHARE THIS MUSIC,
FOR WHICH WE ARE ALL VERY GRATEFUL. THANK YOU.

Aina Arro & James Harbeck
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Jane & Daniel Rowan
Yosola Sholagbade-Adeoye
Mr. Quentin Toderick
Kate Uchendu
Katrina & Yung Wu

Music at St. James

ORGAN RECITALS: Every Tuesday, September - June at 1:00 pm
Organ Recitals presented each week by well-known organists in the city and beyond.

EARLY MUSIC AT ST. JAMES: Selected Thursdays, September - June at 1:00 pm
*Performances on historical instruments given by the foremost specialists,
in the intimate and superb acoustics of St. George Chapel at the south end of the Cathedral.*

NEXT YEAR'S MESSIAH: Saturday, December 13, 2025
We look forward to welcoming you to next year's performance of Messiah!

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This sacred land is the territory of several Indigenous Nations – the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishnaabe, with special recognition to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also acknowledge that we are on the shores of Niigaani-gichigami/Lake Ontario. This territory is governed by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Treaty, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishnaabe Confederacy to peaceably share and sustain the life of the Great Lakes. In the spirit of that Treaty, we seek to place at the centre of our gatherings the values of respectful reciprocity, diversity, peace, responsibility, and mutual aid.

NEW: "MERRY MOMENTS"

30 minutes of holiday spirit featuring traditional Christmas carols, short readings and prayers for everyone.

TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 17, 2024
4:00 PM & 6:00 PM

THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 19, 2024
1:00 PM & 5:30 PM

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 21, 2024
10:00 AM & 1:00 PM

TRADITIONAL FAVOURITES

CHRISTMAS EVE:
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024
4:00 PM Festive Organ Recital *
4:30 PM Lessons & Carols *
7:30 PM Choral Eucharist *

CHRISTMAS DAY:
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2024
8:00 AM Said Eucharist
9:00 AM Sung Eucharist
11:00 AM Choral Eucharist *

*Services will also be live-streamed on the Cathedral YouTube channel at youtube.com/@stjamescathedraltoronto.

EPIPHANY LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025 AT 4:30 PM

SINGING AT ST. JAMES

For adults in our community, if you read music and enjoy singing in choirs we would be delighted to welcome you to one of our choirs. We sing a variety of traditional sacred music. The cathedral choirs meets on Thursday evenings and on Sundays; the St. James Singers meet on Sunday mornings only; and the Evensong Choir meets on Sunday afternoons only. *For further information you are invited to visit our social media pages found at The Choir of St. James Cathedral, Toronto or to contact our Director of Music, Thomas Bell (tbell@stjamescathedral.ca).*

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