



G.F. HANDEL

Messiah

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
TORONTO

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025
7:30 P.M.

The Choir of St. James Cathedral

The Chapel Choir of Trinity College, University of Toronto

SOPRANO: *Maeve Palmer*

MEZZO SOPRANO: *Hillary Tufford*

TENOR: *Bud Roach*

BASS-BARITONE: *Clarence Frazer*

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. Dr. Stephen Hance, Rector of St. James Cathedral and Dean of Toronto

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	Austin Buckley	Gordon Brown
Natasha Fransblow	Lynn Brae+	Jean-Paul Feo	David Campbell
Cara Halpin	Dominic David	Tim Gordon	Nicholas Freer
Heather Jewell	Jane Forner	Henry Lesage	Chun Lo
Anna Kwiatkowska	Barbara Gowdy	Malcolm Macdonald	David Mowat
Tonie Markova	Marilyn Mercer	Peter Mowat	Henry Patterson
Sheila Mattang	Sarah Mole	Joshua Stafford	Vicar Rivsi
Kayla Ruiz	Alex Rojic		Matthew Waterman+
Aria Wang			

THE CHAPEL CHOIR OF TRINITY COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

SOPRANO	ALTO	TENOR	BASS
Olivia Bell	Mairi Cowan	David Barber	Lucas Georgey
Sara Solache Bernal	Jenny Griffin	Charles Fowler	Ezra Jacobs
Helen Bullock	Sia Issar	Adam MacNeil	Gerry King
Marieke de Korte	Lee Johns	Don Pyper	Massimo Kincses
Brontë Ibbotson	Alysa Leigh	Malcolm Rawlinson	Kaelem Moniz
Magdalena Jennings	Zhuying Lin	Drew Tang	Sasha Steeves
Madison MacGregor	Tamar Meparishvili		Isaac White
Katharina Nightingale	Celine Yang		
Sarah Shah	Gracelyn Yang		
Jamie Singh-Yuz			
Katharina Steger			
Senyan Zhang			

THE ORCHESTRA OF ST. JAMES

VIOLIN I	VIOLA	OBOE	TIMPANI
Christopher Verrette (concertmaster)	Clara Nguyen-Tran	Gillian Howard	John Brownell
Valerie Gordon	Amanda Penner	Victoria Hathaway	
Momoko Matsumura			
VIOLIN II	CELLO	BASSOON	CONTINUO
Michelle Odorico	Laura Jones	Zsófia Stefán	Joshua Duncan Lee (organ)
Rezan Onen-Lapointe			Christopher Bagan (harpsichord)
BASS	TRUMPET		
Eric Lee	Norman Engel		
	Paul Sanvidotti		

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



MAEVE PALMER, SOPRANO

“Triple-threat ... coloratura” (*Opera Canada*) Maeve Palmer is an alumna of the Rebanks Family Fellowship and the University of Toronto Opera School. Maeve is a prize winner of the 2021 Jim and Charlotte Norcop Prize in Song (UofT), and a prize winner of the Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition. She has performed with Tapestry Opera, New Music Concerts, Continuum Contemporary

Music, Chorus Niagara and Opera Atelier.

This season, Maeve stars in the leading role in Kalman’s *The Czardas Princess* with Toronto Operetta Theatre. Recent operatic roles include Lydia, *The Handmaid’s Tale* (Banff Centre) and Adina, *L’Elisir d’Amore* (Highlands Opera Studio).

Maeve has appeared as the soprano soloist in Bach’s *Matthäus Passion*, *Mass in B Minor*, Honegger’s *King David*, Bernstein’s *Mass* and Britten’s *Hymn to St. Cecilia*.

Concert performances this season include debuts with Mandle Philharmonic in Beethoven’s *Ninth Symphony* at Koerner Hall, and *Messiah* with St. James Cathedral Choir & Orchestra.



HILLARY TUFFORD, MEZZO SOPRANO

Canadian mezzo soprano Hillary Tufford is a versatile and engaging performer, a graduate of Western University (M.Mus. Voice Performance) and an alumna of the Yulanda M. Faris Young Artist Program at Vancouver Opera. Hillary recently starred as Carmen with Toronto City Opera.

“Hillary Tufford was an engaging Olga, perfectly embodying the flirtatious innocence of the character, while also showcasing a rich, velvety tone” (*Opera Canada*) with Highlands Opera Studio.

Oratorio performances for Hillary include *Messiah* with the Elmer Iseler Singers and Hamilton Philharmonic, Beethoven’s *Ninth Symphony* with Kingston Symphony and Rossini’s *Petite Messe Solennelle* with Vancouver Bach Choir.

Hillary participated in a staged version of Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion* at Banff Centre and sang Cherubino in an international cast of Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro* with Daegu Opera House in Korea. This season, Hillary is a soloist in *Messiah* with St. James Cathedral, Bach Elgar Choir and Stratford Concert Choir.



BUD ROACH, TENOR

Bud Roach maintains a busy schedule of performances from the Baroque to the contemporary. His recordings for the Musica Omnia label have been recognized internationally as ground-breaking achievements in historically-informed performance practice. “Roach is marvelous throughout....Five stars” (*Early Music Today*, UK). Highlights include music theatre works by Claude Vivier on tour in Berlin

and London, UK; concert appearances with La Chapelle de Quebec, the Hamilton Philharmonic, the

London Symphonia, the Bach Elgar Choir, Nota Bene Baroque Players, the Menno Singers, Soundstreams Canada, the Spiritus Ensemble, Talisker Players, Toronto Masque Theatre, and the Toronto Consort.

Bud is committed to the cultural enrichment of his local community of Hamilton, Ontario. He has served on the boards of the Hamilton Arts Council and the Bach Elgar Choir, and volunteers as the Founder and Artistic Director of Hammer Baroque, a monthly, pay-what-you-can concert series for Early Music guest artists from across North America.



CLARENCE FRAZER, BARITONE

Canadian Korean baritone Clarence Frazer, a “singer actor at the top of his game” (*Opera Going Toronto*), has been hailed for his “full and powerful” baritone (*Schmopera*), and “unique musical performative power that demands a wider audience” (*Ludwig Van Toronto*).

Recent and upcoming engagements include returns to Vancouver Opera (Guglielmo/Mozart’s *Così fan tutte*, Steward/Dove’s *Flight*), his debut with Manitoba Opera (Schaunard/Puccini’s *La bohème*), and the role of Albert in *Werther* with the Canadian Opera Company.

Clarence began his 2025/26 season as Bassett in Ammolite Opera’s production of *The Rocking Horse Winner* (Chatterton/Williams) and debuted as Morales in *Carmen* with the Macao International Music Festival.

Clarence has performed as a soloist with Symphony Nova Scotia, Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Chorus Niagara, the Grand Philharmonic Choir, the Ottawa Choral Society, and the Vancouver Bach 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.

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.

Cawder Ravi Andrews
Irene Bailey
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Susan Bell & Thomas Bell
Chris Benedetto
The Rev. Canon Beth Benson & Bill Benson
Brian & Ellen Carr
Philip & Theresa Day
Aaron Dumpala & Nadia Benedetto
The Rev. Vinaya Dumpala & Geetha Dumpala
The Rev. Yohan Dumpala & Ursula Tsoi
The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields & Lucy Fields
The Very Rev. Dr. Stephen Hance & Jacqui Hance
Peter Harris
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Jane Rowan
Almos Tassonyi & Maureen Simpson
Quentin Toderick
Kate Uchendu
Katrina & Yung Wu

Music at St. James

LA NATIVITÉ DU SEIGNEUR BY OLIVIER MESSIAEN

played by organist Rashaan Allwood on Friday, December 19, 2025 at 7:30pm

Nine musical meditations on the birth of Jesus interspersed with poems and Bible readings. La Nativité is one of the most startlingly original works ever created for the organ. Olivier Messiaen, a deeply devout musician, conceived a series of nine musical tableaux which reflect not only upon the actual events of the nativity – the shepherds, the wise men – but the profound implications of these events for us today. The organ portrays the story in music which ranges from quiet, timeless introspection to shattering excitement. Biblical readings and poems by George Herbert, W.H. Auden, Malcolm Guite, Tennyson, and others will intersperse the musical reflections. Open to all. Donations are welcome to support the work of the St. James and Community Refugee Committee.

ORGAN RECITALS: Every Tuesday at 1:00pm (September-June)

Organ Recitals presented each week by well-known organists in the city and beyond.

NEXT YEAR'S MESSIAH: Saturday, December 12, 2026

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.*

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH ST. JAMES



Christmas Eve

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:00pm Festive Organ Recital ★ 4:30pm Lessons & Carols ★ 7:30pm Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:00am Said Eucharist ★ 10:30am Choral Eucharist

Merry Moments

30-MINUTE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES FILLED
WITH BELOVED CAROLS, READINGS AND A SHORT HOMILY

Tuesday, December 16: 4:00pm and 6:00pm ★ Thursday, December 18: 1:00pm and 5:30pm

★ Saturday, December 20: 10:30am (with Children's Community Choir) and 1:00pm ★

*Join us on Saturday, December 20 from 11:00am until 1:00pm
for a Live Nativity Animals Petting Zoo.*

stjamescathedral.ca/christmas2025

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. JAMES

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