

Welcome

2025-26 SEASON

NOON AT MET

FREE THURSDAY CONCERTS



FEBRUARY

5 | 12 | 19 | 26

SILVER THREAD

Thursday, February 5 at 12:00 p.m.

*Rayna Crandlemire - Emily Parker - Ineza Mugisha - Sarah Mole - Anika Venkatesh
Nathan Gritter - Joshua Sutherland - Kai Leung - Martin Gomes*

Laudibus in Sanctis	William Byrd, 1540-1623
Pakaskitawew (NAGAMO)	Andrew Balfour, b.1967
I am the rose of Sharon	Ivo Antognini, b.1963
and the swallow	Caroline Shaw, b.1982
Tsubasa 翼	Toru Takemitsu, 1930-1996
Hymn to St. Cecilia	Benjamin Britten, 1913-1976
How They So Softly Rest	Healey Willan, 1880-1968
Lead Us Home	Matthew Emery, b.1991
Generation 2.5	Kai Leung, b.1998
Unclouded Day	Rev. J.K. Alwood, 1828-1909 arr. Shawn Kirchner, b. 1970

Silver Thread is a Toronto-based professional chamber choral ensemble, performing repertoire that spans genre and time period. Founded in 2025, Silver Thread was born out of a shared love for choral music, with members bringing multitudes of experience from their work as professional singers, composers, conductors, poets, theatre performers, educators, and administrators. This malleable ensemble garners a musical expertise that ranges from renaissance to contemporary, with a keen interest in the works of young Canadian composers. The name “Silver Thread” was chosen for its profound meaning, the silver thread symbolizing the interconnectedness between nature and life, and the important link between our lived experiences and how we move through the world. The ensemble was formed through close friendships, a desire to share a versatile, heartfelt sound, and to create a space to evolve our musicianship. At its core, Silver Thread aims to prioritize fostering connection between its members’ identities and how that informs their music-making.

Silver Thread presented their premiere performance as part of the Early Music at St. James Series in November 2025. Upcoming engagements include Music at St. Basil’s in January 2026, Metropolitan United Church’s ‘Noon at Met’ in February 2026, and Tapestry Opera’s new Free Underground Concerts in March. Silver Thread looks forward to sharing a self-produced show in March 2026, and to educational outreach with schools in the Greater Toronto Area. The group strives to learn, collaborate, and grow with ardent curiosity, and to be meaningful and adventurous in their artistry.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCHOLA CANTORUM

Thursday, February 12 at 12:00 p.m.

Daniel Taylor, conductor

Emma McNeil, soprano - Henry Paterson, baritone

Jonathan Oldengarm, organ

Requiem, op. 45

Gabriel Fauré, 1845-1924

- I. *Introit et Kyrie*
- II. *Offertory*
- III. *Sanctus*
- IV. *Pie Jesu*
- V. *Agnus Dei*
- VI. *Libera me*
- VII. *In Paradisum*

The **Schola Cantorum** is an ensemble-based course led by Prof. Daniel Taylor within the University of Toronto's historical performance programme, with a focus on the study and performance of 17th- and 18th-century vocal repertoire from an historically aware perspective. Small-, medium- and larger-scale ensemble work is covered, including today's performance of one of the 19th century's best-loved choral masterworks.

Under 19th-century Romanticism, music ascended from its role as a vehicle for worship to itself becoming an object of worship. For example, Richard Wagner saw himself as a priest of art who ascribed sacramental properties to his works, particularly *Parsifal* (1882), his last music drama. Gabriel Fauré's own vaguely-defined religious faith (which evolved from nominal Catholicism to theism bordering on agnosticism) was true to his age. The *Requiem*, op. 48 was composed between 1887 and 1890, with a few revisions over the following years. The first version was for organ and choir, the second, for organ, chamber orchestra and choir, and the third for full orchestra and choir. In contrast to many other Romantic settings of the *Mass for the Dead* the emotional range is subdued, sublimated by elegant melodic writing and harmonic colour. Fauré's personal religious ambivalence helps explain his apparent detachment from the text; he writes: "Everything I managed to entertain by way of religious illusion I put into my Requiem, which moreover is dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest." This humanistic flavour is underlined in Fauré's selective use of the Requiem text: he abbreviates the *Dies irae* sequence, setting only the imploring *Pie Jesu* section, sung in the present recording by *Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal*. The final movement, *In paradisum*, is borrowed from the burial liturgy rather than the Requiem Mass. The intimacy, charm and warmth of op. 48 have made it one of the best-loved Requiems in the repertoire.

CLAUDE WATSON SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS CHOIRS

Thursday, February 19 at 12:00 p.m.

Linda Song, Conductor

GRADE 4 CHOIR A MARSHMALLOW WORLD

Words by Carl Sigman, Music by Peter De Rose

Arranged by Greg Gilpin

Pianist: Kevin Wang (Grade 7)

BOYS CHOIR SNOWY DAY, from "THE SNOWY DAY"

Performed by BOYZ II MEN

Words and Music by Nathan Morris, Wanya Morris and Shawn Stockman, Arranged by Roger Emerson

Pianist: Daniel Kong (Grade 8)

GIRLS CHOIR REMEMBER ME

Music by Bob Chilcott, b.1955, Poem by Christina Rossetti, 1830-94

Pianist: Corrine Dai (Grade 8)

GRADE 5 CHOIR BACH-A-ROCK! (with apologies to Bach!)

Melody by J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

Adapted by Ruth Artman, 1919-2010

Pianist : Liam Lai (Grade 8)

GRADES 5/6 CHOIR FLY!

Music by Tracy Wong; Lyricist: Bihzhu, b. 1983

Pianist: Catherine Yang (Grade 6)

GRADES 6/7 CHOIR LIKE A SINGING BIRD

Music by Bob Chilcott, b.1955

Poem by Christina Rossetti, 1830-94 and Robert Burns, 1759-96

WHY WE SING

Words and Music by Greg Gilpin

Pianist: Catherine Yang (Grade 6)

GRADES 7/8 CHOIR WHITE WINTER HYMNAL

Recorded by FLEET FOXES

Words and Music by Robin Pecknold

Double Bass: Henderson Gu (Grade 8)

GRADE 8 CHOIR SUMMERTIME, From "PORGY AND BESS"

Music and Lyrics by George Gershwin, DuBose and Dorothy Heyward and Ira Gershwin

Arranged by Roger Emerson

Pianist: Liam Lai (Grade 8) - Double Bass: Henderson Gu (Grade 8) - Saxophone: Rory Guo (Grade 8)

Continued overleaf...

CHORALE CAN'T HELP FALLING LOVE

Recorded by ELVIS PRESLEY

Words and Music by George David Weiss, Hugo Peretti and Luigi Creatore. Arranged by Roger Emerson

Pianist: Cindy Kwan (Grade 8)

FINALE ROAR

Words and Music by Katy Perry, Bonnie McKee, Max Martin,

Lukasz Gottwald and Henry Walter; Arranged by Mark Brymer

Pianist: Kevin Wang (Grade 7)

Claude Watson School for the Arts

Principal: Thane Jovanovich

Founded in 1981, the Claude Watson School for the Arts is a specialized program spanning Grades 4 to 8 and is part of the Toronto District School Board. CWSA offers an enriched arts education for students within the City of Toronto who have an interest in music, drama, dance, and the visual arts. Students pursue studies in all four arts disciplines. These programs provide students with unique opportunities to pursue their interests and develop artistic and academic excellence and leadership. Our students come from every area of the city, and we are very proud of them!

Linda Song

As a passionate artist and a dedicated educator, Linda brings various experiences into her teaching, both with children and adults at the amateur and professional levels. Linda is a Music Specialist for the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and a full-time teacher at the Claude Watson School for the Arts (CWSA). Linda is an instructor for the Vocal Music Additional Qualification (AQ) courses for Ontario school teachers in partnership with the Royal Conservatory of Music, the University of Toronto (OISE) and various school boards.

At the Oscar Peterson School of Music, she teaches the Smart Start classes, Kodály Classes, Orff Classes, Suzuki Musicianship Classes, Children's Choir, Music Enrichment Plus Programs, as well as Summer Camps teaching both vocal and instrumental camps for children. Linda is also a trainer in Kodály, Orff, and Early Childhood Music Education for teachers. Linda has been the Associate Conductor with the Toronto Children's Chorus (TCC), Canadian Children's Opera Company (CCOC), Mississauga Children's Choir (MCC) along with the Learning Through the Arts (LTTA) and the Itinerant Music Program with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). Linda continues to give workshops and loves making music with amazing musicians.

TERESA TUCCI, SOPRANO | JOONGHUN CHO, PIANO

Thursday, February 26 at 12:00 p.m.

Opera

“Quando m’en vo” from La Bohème

Giacomo Puccini, 1858-1924

“Deh vieni, non tardar” from Le nozze di Figaro

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756-1791

“Lascia ch’io pianga” from Rinaldo

Georg Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

Art Song

“Après un rêve” from Trois Mélodies, Op. 7

Gabriel Fauré, 1845-1924

“Au bord de l’eau” from Trois Mélodies, Op. 8

“Le secret” from Trois Mélodies, Op. 23

Musical Theatre/Cabaret

“I Could Have Danced All Night” (My Fair Lady)

Lerner & Loewe

“All Through the Night” from Anything Goes

Cole Porter

“Think of Me” from The Phantom of the Opera

Andrew Lloyd Webber

“Amor” from Cabaret Songs

William Bolcom

Italian-Canadian soprano **Teresa Tucci** is gaining recognition for her dynamic stage presence and vocal agility across operatic and theatrical repertoire. She recently completed her Artist Diploma in Operatic Performance at the University of Toronto and holds a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the New England Conservatory, as well as a Bachelor of Musical Theatre Performance from Sheridan College. Teresa is currently a Fellow of The Rebanks Family Fellowship and International Performance Residency Program at The Royal Conservatory’s Glenn Gould School, where she appears regularly in concert, chamber, and operatic performances. Recent highlights include soprano soloist appearances in Handel’s Messiah with the Toronto Choral Society at Koerner Hall and the Guelph Chamber Choir. Upcoming engagements include a spring tour of southern Ontario and the Maritimes with Sound the Alarm’s Music of the Night, performing selections from The Phantom of the Opera, Song & Dance, Cats, and other works by Andrew Lloyd Webber. She also looks forward to making her debut as Eurydice in Toronto City Opera’s production of Orpheus in the Underworld in June. Additional credits include appearances with the Banff Centre, Opera Neo, and University of Toronto Opera.

METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH PIPE ORGAN SPECIFICATION

Casavant Frères Ltée, op. 1367 (built in 1930)

GREAT (second keyboard)

Contra Bourdon 32' (TC)
Double Open Diapason 16'
Bourdon 16'
Open Diapason I 8'
Open Diapason II 8'
Open Diapason III 8'
Violin Diapason 8'
Hohl Flute 8'
Doppel Flute 8'
Stopped Diapason 8'
Quint 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ '
Octave 4'
Principal 4'
Flûte Harmonique 4'
Flûte d'amour 4'
Quint 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ '
Fifteenth 2'
Harmonics V
Mixture III
Contra Tromba 16'
Tromba 8'
Posaune 8'
Octave Tromba 4'
Harp (CH)

SWELL (third keyboard)

Contra Geigen 16'
Lieblich Bourdon 16'
Open Diapason 8'
Geigen Diapason 8'
Salicional 8'
Lieblich Gedeckt 8'
Viola da Gamba 8'
Voix Celeste 8'
Aeoline 8'
Octave 4'
Flauto Traverso 4'
Fifteenth 2'
Cornet V
Mixture III
Double Trumpet 16'
Trumpet 8'
Oboe 8'
Vox Humana 8'
Clarion 4'
Tremulant
Harp (CH)

CHOIR (first keyboard)

Contra Viola 16'
Open Diapason 8'
Melodia 8'
Quintadena 8'
Spitz Flute 8'
Flute Celeste 8'
Dulciana 8'
Unda Maris 8'
Dulcet 4'
Flute d'amour 4'
Nazard 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ '
Harmonic Piccolo 2'
Tierce 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ '
Dulciana Mixture IV
Contra Fagotto 16'
Trumpet 8'
Clarinet 8'
Clarion 4'
Tremulant
Harp
Harp Sub

ORCHESTRAL (fourth keyboard)

Contra Gamba 16'
Gross Gamba 8'
Gamba Celeste 8'
Viole d'orchestre 8'
Viole Celeste 8'
Rohr Flute 8'
Gross Flute 8'
Fugara 4'
Concert Flute 4'
Cornet de Violes III
Trombone 16'
Bassoon 16'
Tuba Sonora 8'
Orchestral Trumpet 8'
French Horn 8'
Orchestral Oboe 8'
Corno di Bassetto 8'
Cor Anglais 8'
Octave Tuba 4'
Tremulant
Harp (CH)

BOMBARDE (fifth keyboard)

Stentorphone 8'
Mixture VII
Tuba Magna 16'

Tuba Mirabilis 8'
Quint Horn 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ '
Tuba Clarion 4'

PEDAL (for the feet)

Double Open Diapason 32'
Open Diapason I 16'
Open Diapason II 16' (ext)
Violone 16'
Gamba 16' (ORCH)
Bourdon I 16'
Bourdon II 16' (GT)
Viola 16' (CH)
Gedeckt 16' (SW)
Quint 10 $\frac{2}{3}$ '
Octave 8' (ext)
Cello 8' (ext)
Stopped Flute 8' (ext)
Still Gedeckt 8' (SW)
Octave Quint 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ ' (ext)
Super Octave 4' (ext)
Mixture IV
Contra Bombarde 32'
Bombarde 16' (ext)
Trombone 16' (ORCH)
Bassoon 16' (ORCH)
Tromba 8' (ext)
Clarion 4' (ext)

GALLERY ORGAN

ANTIPHONAL (floating)

Open Diapason 8'
Principal 4'
Hooded Trumpet 8'

ECHO (floating)

Chimney Flute 8'
Viola da Gamba 8'
Flute 4'
Tremulant
Zimbelstern
Nightingale

PEDAL (feet)

Bourdon 16'
Octavebass 8' (ext)

UPCOMING IN MUSIC AT METROPOLITAN

Music at Met

On **Saturday, February 7 at 10:00 a.m. (masterclass)** and **Sunday, February 8 at 3:00 p.m. (recital)** we welcome international superstar organist Isabelle Demers, Associate Professor of Organ at McGill University, as our guest artist for this annual event that honours the legacy of our Minister of Music Emerita Dr Patricia Wright. Isabelle's dazzling programme ends with her own arrangement of Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*. Free admission; your generous donations to the Patricia Wright Fund are greatly appreciated. The concert can be enjoyed in-person and on livestream.

Music and Noon at Met - March 2026

March 5: Jonathan Oldengarm, Harpsichord

March 12: University of Toronto Pianists

March 19: Juliana Moroz, violin (Rebanks Fellow)

March 26: Piano Students of Maggie Morrison

MUSIC STAFF

Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm - Minister of Music jonathano@metunited.ca

Ethan Duan & Edward Xu - Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholars

Dr. Elisa Tersigni - Wayne C. Vance Carillonist carillon@metunited.ca

Alessia Signorella - Conductor, Metropolitan Choristers

Fran Harvey - Conductor, Metropolitan Silver Band



Our sound and livestream technician is Charlie Davidson. Metropolitan's livestreaming equipment was made possible thanks to the generosity of **Wayne C. Vance**. Your freewill donations support the ongoing musical ministry of Metropolitan United Church, and allow us to maintain our landmark heritage musical instruments and building. If you prefer to donate electronically, please visit metunited.ca/donate or scan the QR code here.

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