

Evening Concert – Tuesday, April 19, 2011

Winspear Centre, Edmonton

8:00 pm.

Festival Massed Choir
Scott Leithead, conductor
Jennifer McMillan, piano

In Remembrance

- Tegan Hryciw, oboe

Jeffrey Ames

Kaana Kameme

Oshivambo Traditional

Sipiri

Nama/Damara Traditional

BIOGRAPHIES

Scott Leithead, conductor

Kokopelli's artistic director, Scott Leithead, B.Mus. is the founder of the Kokopelli and TIME Jazz Associations. . Scott is in demand as a clinician, guest director, and evaluator at events in North America, Europe and Africa. He has conducted provincial/state honour choirs in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Montana. Scott has a passion for music from southern Africa and he has been hired to work with choirs in South Africa and Namibia on numerous occasions. In 2008/09, Scott was on sabbatical in Namibia, where he worked with the Mascato Youth Choir and numerous other choirs in southern Africa. Scott's passion for innovative and unique choral music experiences has shaped the direction of the Kokopelli Choir Association and was the founder of Òran as the alumni ensemble for the Kokopelli Youth Choir.

This season Scott has been invited to conduct the Saskatchewan and New Brunswick Youth Choirs for the second time. On July 1st, he will lead the Unisong National Choir Festival on Canada Day with the National Arts Orchestra. In addition he will be presenting at Festival 500 in Newfoundland as a festival clinician and he will adjudicate the Ontario Vocal Festival, the Vancouver Kiwanis Festival, and the Edmonton Cantando Festival. He will be presenting major concerts with the Amabile Choirs in London Ontario, The Bach Children's Choirs of Guelph, The Toronto Children's Choir, The Hamilton Children's Choir, and The High Park Children's Choirs.

He is also looking forward to conducting a summer program in Naramata BC in August 2011.

He has been invited to work with ensembles and institutions in 9 provinces this year, as well as in the United States, the Cayman Islands, Thailand and in Africa.

Jennifer McMillan, piano

Òran and Kokopelli accompanist Jennifer Kinghorn McMillan is an active member of the Edmonton musical community. She is a graduate of the Music Composition and Piano

Performance programs at MacEwan College and has since developed into a sought-after accompanist, composer and arranger, with particular interest in vocal jazz arranging. As an accompanist, she has played for Kokopelli, Óran, Shumayela, Brail Tones, Wagner High School, Victoria High School, Lindsay Thurber High School, Mascato Coastal Youth Choir from Namibia and most recently for a brand new musical, Wedlocked, at the Mayfield Dinner Theatre. Jennifer's choral arrangements and compositions have been heard across North America and have even reached audiences in Namibia and South Africa. As a vocalist, Jennifer lends her talents to the Óran Choir - of the Kokopelli Choir Association and 'Nuf Sed - of Today's Innovative Music Edmonton (TIME Association). This marks Jennifer's 10th year of involvement and membership in the Kokopelli Choir Association.

Kimberly Denis (vocal)

Shumayela's founding director, Kimberley Denis, M.Mus. Choral Conducting and Vocal Performance (University of Alberta, 2007), B.Mus. (Mount Allison University, 2003), B. Comm. (Mount Allison University, 2003) is known for her energy and enthusiasm both on stage and off, and is sought after as both a soloist and as a vocal clinician for high school, community, church and children's choirs. Upon completion of both her commerce and music undergraduate degrees at Mount Allison University, she returned to Alberta where she completed a double masters degree in choral conducting and voice at the University of Alberta. Following her academic studies, she has conducted many different choral ensembles across the province and begun work in theatre, creating and directing a live music score for Red Deer College's production of Romeo and Juliet and the world premier of Vern Thiessen's adaptation of Wuthering Heights. She has won many accolades for her work as a soprano soloist and conductor, and has also received a research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for her thesis work on regionalism and nationalism in Canada as portrayed through choral arrangements of Eastern Canadian folk songs. She is currently working on her second solo recording featuring original arrangements of the music of Joni Mitchell and she is often asked to write choral arrangements for choirs of all shapes and sizes. She was also nominated for the 2010 Lieutenant Governor of Alberta's Emerging Artist Award. She currently directs Shumayela in Edmonton, and the Nota Bene Youth Choir and Red Deer Children's Choir in Red Deer. She is also currently the music director at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Edmonton, music editor for Themes and Variations Music Publishing, and the Program Coordinator for the Alberta Choral Federation.

Kathleen Skinner (vocal)

Kokopelli Choir Association's executive director Kathleen Skinner, B.Mus. (University of British Columbia, 2003), M.Mus. Choral Conducting (University of Alberta, 2005), is the conductor of the Oran Choir. Prior to finishing her post-secondary education, Kathleen spent two years as the assistant conductor of the U of A Madrigal Singers under the direction of Dr. Leonard Ratzlaff. Kathleen was the music director at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church until recently, where she led two adult choirs and a children's choir. Now Kathleen is pleased to be taking on a new role as the executive director for the Kokopelli Choir Association. An emerging conductor and composer on the Alberta choral scene, Kathleen has been engaged as a clinician and vocal coach for high school and youth groups around B.C. and Alberta. Her compositions have been published and performed widely in North America.