

A collection of colorful trumpets and trombones, including gold, purple, blue, green, and red instruments, are arranged on a sheet of musical notation. The instruments are positioned diagonally across the frame, with their valves and bells clearly visible. The background is a light-colored sheet of music with various notes and clefs.

# Edmonton Cantando Festival

**April 12-15th, 2015**

*Presented by New Era Music Festivals*

# Congratulations

*To all Cantando Festival Participants!*

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Winspear Centre, Edmonton

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April 7-10, 2016

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# Director's Message



Welcome to the 16th annual Edmonton Cantando Music Festival. We have a combination of new and returning groups attending this year and know that they will be thrilled to perform in the Winspear, one of Canada's finest concert halls.

This year's special guest is an old friend. Adept in a variety of styles, he is another musician who is not defined specifically as a "classical" player. James Walker spent years playing principal flute with the LA Philharmonic, and then chose to leave to follow a different career path. You will hear him on Sunday evening with a jazz trio from MacEwan University and on Monday night with the Community Symphony Orchestra from Concordia College. He performs throughout the world and has

recorded extensively. You have probably heard him many times already without realizing it, as he frequents the LA studios and is on a number of movie sound tracks.

Sunday night's program also includes, for the 3rd consecutive year, the Grant MacEwan percussion ensemble – a stellar and large group of young musicians who always appeal to our audiences. On Monday night, while instrumental students listen in the Winspear, choral students will be at McDougall United Church working and listening to each other perform – including special performances by the Point Grey Choirs from Vancouver. Please note: both events start at 7 pm so that all Cantando participants can enjoy a social/dance at the Chateau Lacombe Hotel commencing at 8:30 pm.

On Tuesday night, the mass choir performs as well as special guest choir, Kokopelli – a choral mainstay of the festival. The program concludes with a brilliant performance by the University of Alberta Symphonic Wind Ensemble, fresh off a successful performance with Canadian composer, Michael Colgrass.

All concerts are free of charge to participants – and this year, to the general public. Please let your Edmonton friends and family know this, as we hope to have large audiences for these talented performers.

Enjoy the workshops that follow your performance and good luck in your future musical endeavors.

*Dr. Dennis Prime*

Cantando Festival Director



# Festival-At-A-Glance

## Morning

## Afternoon

## Evening

### April 12

Concert Band Performances

WinSpear Concerts

### April 13

Concert Band Performances

WinSpear Concerts

Concert Band & Wind Ensemble Workshops

Choral Showcase

Instrumental Masterclasses

Student Social

Jazz Ensemble Performances & Workshops

Choir Performances

Choir Workshops

### April 14

Concert Band Performances

WinSpear Concerts

Concert Band & Wind Ensemble Workshops

Instrumental Masterclasses

Jazz Ensemble Performances & Workshops

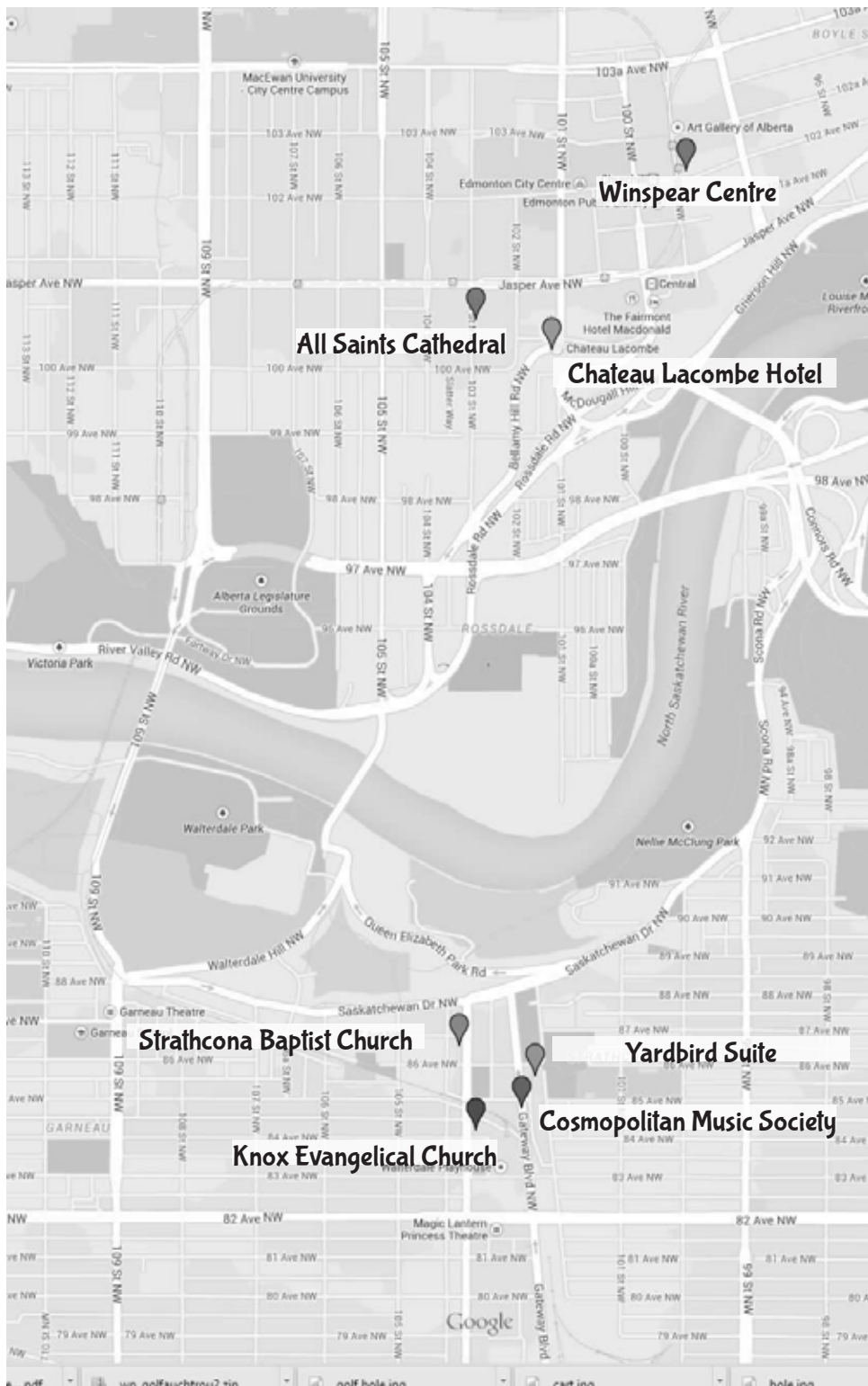
Choir Performances

Choir Workshops

### April 15

Concert Band & Wind Ensemble Workshops

Instrumental Masterclasses



**Winspear Centre**

**All Saints Cathedral**

**Chateau Lacombe Hotel**

**Strathcona Baptist Church**

**Yardbird Suite**

**Knox Evangelical Church**

**Cosmopolitan Music Society**



# Concert Band Performances

**Sunday April 12th, 2015**  
**Winspear Centre**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Ensemble Name &amp; Director</b>	<b>Hometown</b>
9:20	Chilliwack Middle Concert Band (2) Jill Solven	Chilliwack, BC
9:40	Carberry Collegiate Senior Band (3) Justine Burke	Carberry, MB
10:00	Melita School Band (3) Maureen Baird	Melita, MB
10:20	Acadia Junior High Grade 9 Concert Band (3) Darryl Ferguson	Winnipeg, MB
10:40	Killarney Senior Band (3) Meagan Lawson	Killarney, AB
11:00	Grant Park High School Concert Band (4) Joanne Karlowsky	Winnipeg, MB
1:00	JL Crowe Concert Band (2) Jenn Kolumbus	Trail, BC
1:20	Stelly's Concert Band (2) Norbert Ziegler	Saanichton, BC
1:40	Stanley Humphrie Concert Band (2) Shannon McCready	Castlegar, BC
2:00	John Oliver Concert Band (2) Eric Tsang	Vancouver, BC

# Monday April 13th, 2015

## Winspear Centre

Time	Ensemble Name & Director	Hometown
8:00	Parkland Middle Grade 7 Concert Band (2) Stephanie Tichauer	Cranbrook, BC
8:40	Glenmary School Grade 7/8 Band (2) Donald Lee	Peace River, AB
9:00	SD#60 Concert Band (2) Sandra Gunn	Fort St. John, BC
9:20	Georges P. Vanier Grade 9 Band (2) Adam Mailman	Calgary, AB
9:40	Laurie Grade 8/9 Concert Band (2) John Marino	Cranbrook, BC
10:00	Mitchell Middle (2) Nancy Horobetz	Winnipeg, MB
10:20	ESMS Concert Band (2) Jennifer Lansky	East Selkirk, MB
10:40	Westdale School Symphonic Band (2) Jeff Boch	Winnipeg, MB
11:30	West Kildonan Collegiate (4) Art Zuke	Winnipeg, MB
1:00	St. Pierre Concert Band (2) Liane Ouimet	St. Pierre Jolys, MB
1:20	AESS Senior Band (3) Gord Macleod	Agassiz, BC
2:00	Winston Knoll Collegiate Symphonic Band (2) Chad Huel	Regina, SK
3:40	Point Grey Senior Strings (4) Stephen Fleming	Vancouver, BC
4:00	West Central Grade 10 Band (4) Mark Friesen	Rocky Mountain House, AB
4:30	Point Grey Symphonic Band (4) Brent Taylor & Stephen Fleming	Vancouver, BC
5:00	West Central Symphonic Band (5) Mark Friesen	Rocky Mountain House, AB

Concert Band Performances Continued...

## Tuesday April 14th, 2015

### Winspear Centre

Time	Ensemble Name & Director	Hometown
9:00	Holy Cross Grade 10 Green Band (3) Jana McGonigal & Meaghan Reynolds	Saskatoon, SK
9:20	SCCHS Wind Ensemble (2) Janine Waines	Swift Current, SK
9:40	Brooks Junior High Concert Band (2) Brian Stone	Brooks, AB
10:00	Holy Cross Grade 10 White Band (3) Jana McGonigal & Meaghan Reynolds	Saskatoon, SK
10:40	Lawrence Grassi Middle School Concert Band (2) Lisa Murphy	Canmore, AB
11:00	MEI Concert Band (5) - Chad Joiner	Abbotsford, BC
1:00	Pierceland School Senior Band (3) Doug Millie	Pierceland, SK
1:20	ESS Senior Band (2) - Greg Kapiniak	Loon Lake, SK

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# Concert/Wind Workshops

## Monday April 13th, 2015 Cosmopolitan Music Society

*\* Room assignments subject to change.*

Time	Ensemble Name & Director	Location
8:00	Carberry Collegiate Senior Band (3) Justine Burke	Studio A
9:00	JL Crowe Concert Band (2) Jenn Kolumbus	Studio A
9:00	Stanley Humphrie Concert Band (2) Shannon McCready	Studio B
10:00	Chilliwack Middle Concert Band (2) Jill Solven	Studio A
10:00	Stelly's Concert Band (2) Norbert Ziegler	Studio B
11:00	Acadia Junior High Grade 9 Concert Band (3) Darryl Ferguson	Studio A
1:00	Killarney Senior Band (3) Meagan Lawson	Studio B
1:00	John Oliver Concert Band (2) Eric Tsang	Studio A
2:00	Melita School Band (3) Maureen Baird	Studio A
3:00	Grant Park High School Concert Band (4) Joanne Karlowsky	Studio A
4:00	MEI Concert Band (5) Chad Joiner	Studio A

## Tuesday April 14th, 2015

# Cosmopolitan Music Society

Time	Ensemble Name & Director	Location
8:00AM	Parkland Middle Grade 7 Concert Band (2) Stephanie Tichauer	Studio A
8:00AM	Glenmary School Grade 7/8 Band (2) Donald Lee	Studio B
9:00AM	SD#60 Concert Band (2) Sandra Gunn	Studio A
9:00AM	Mitchell Middle (2) Nancy Horobetz	Studio B
10:00AM	West Central Grade 10 Band (4) Mark Friesen	Studio B
10:00AM	West Kildonan Collegiate (4) Art Zuke	Studio A
11:00AM	West Central Symphonic Band (5) Mark Friesen	Studio B
11:00AM	Laurie Grade 8/9 Concert Band (2) John Marino	Studio A
1:00PM	ESMS Concert Band (2) Jennifer Lansky	Studio A
1:00PM	Georges P. Vanier Grade 9 Band (2) Adam Mailman	Studio B
2:00PM	Westdale School Symphonic Band (2) Jeff Boch	Studio B
2:00PM	Winston Knoll Collegiate Symphonic Band (2) Chad Huel	Studio A
3:00PM	St. Pierre Concert Band (2) Liane Ouimet	Studio A
4:00PM	AESS Senior Band (3) Gord Macleod	Studio A
4:00PM	Point Grey Symphonic Band (4) Brent Taylor & Stephen Fleming	Studio B
5:00PM	Point Grey Senior Strings (4) Stephen Fleming	Studio A

Concert Band & Wind Workshops Continued...

## Wednesday April 15th, 2015 Cosmopolitan Music Society

Time	Ensemble Name & Director	Location
8:00	Pierceland School Senior Band (5) Doug Millie	Studio B
8:00	Brooks Junior High School Concert Band (2) Brian Stone	Studio A
9:00	Holy Cross Grade 10 Green Band (3) M. Reynolds & J. McGonigal	Studio B
9:00	Holy Cross Grade 10 White Band (3) M. Reynolds & J. McGonigal	Studio A
10:00	SCCHS Wind Ensemble (2) Janine Waines	Studio A
1:00	ESS Senior Band (2) Greg Kapiniak	Studio B
1:00	Lawrence Grassi Middle School Concert Band (2) - Lisa Murphy	Studio A

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**Monday, April 13**

Time	Masterclass
10:00	Woodwind & Double Bass
11:00	Brass & Percussion
12:00	Faculty Recitals
1:00	Woodwind & Double Bass
2:00	Brass & Percussion

**Tuesday, April 14**

Time	Masterclass
10:00	Woodwind & Double Bass
11:00	Brass & Percussion
12:00	Faculty Recitals
1:00	Woodwind & Double Bass
2:00	Brass & Percussion

**Wednesday, April 15 - Morning only**

Time	Masterclass
10:00	Woodwind & Double Bass
11:00	Brass & Percussion
12:00	Faculty Recitals



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# Concert Choir Performances

## Monday April 13th, 2015 All Saints Cathedral

Time	Ensemble Name & Director	Hometown
8:30	Stelly's Secondary School Norbert Zigler	Saanichton, BC
9:00	John Oliver Choir Eric Tsang	Vancouver, BC
9:30	West Kildonan Collegiate Roberta Matheson	Winnipeg, MB
10:00	Point Grey Vocal Jazz Taylor Bone	Vancouver, BC
10:30	Winston Knoll Collegiate Junior Choir Diane Taylor-Neale	Regina, SK
11:00	Point Grey Chamber Choir Taylor Bone	Vancouver, BC
11:30	Point Grey Concert Choir Taylor Bone	Vancouver, BC

## Tuesday April 14th, 2015 All Saints Cathedral

Time	Ensemble Name & Director	Hometown
10:00	Memorial Composite High Mass Choir Mona Holton	Stony Plain, AB
10:30	Notre Dame Canadians Lisa Welder	Wilcox, SK
11:00	Cochrane High School Concert Choir April Waterbury	Cochrane, AB





# Concert Choir Workshops

## Monday April 13th, 2015 All Saints Cathedral

Time	Ensemble Name & Director	Hometown
1:00	Point Grey Vocal Jazz Taylor Bone	Vancouver, BC
1:00	Stelly's Secondary School Norbert Zigler	Saanichton, BC
2:00	West Kildonan Collegiate Roberta Matheson	Winnipeg, MB
2:00	Point Grey Chamber Choir Taylor Bone	Vancouver, BC
3:00	Winston Knoll Collegiate Junior Choir Diane Taylor-Neale	Regina, SK
3:00	Point Grey Concert Choir Taylor Bone	Vancouver, BC
4:00	John Oliver Choir Eric Tsang	Vancouver, BC

## Tuesday April 14th, 2015 All Saints Cathedral

Time	Ensemble Name & Director	Hometown
12:00	Memorial Composite High Mass Choir Mona Holton	Stony Plain, AB
1:00	Cochrane High School Concert Choir April Waterbury	Cochrane, AB
2:00	Notre Dame Canadians Lisa Welder	Wilcox, SK



# Jazz Ensembles

## Monday April 13th, 2015 Yardbird Suite

Time	Ensemble Name & Director	Hometown
9:00	Acadia Junior High School Jazz Ensemble Darryl Ferguson	Winnipeg, MB
10:30	Memorial Composite High School Jazz Band Tomas Lindbeck	Stony Plain, AB
1:30	JL Crowe Jazz Band Jenn Kolumbus	Trail, BC
4:30	Lawrence Grassi Middle School Jazz Band Lisa Murphy	Canmore, AB

## Tuesday April 14th, 2015 Yardbird Suite

Time	Ensemble Name & Director	Hometown
9:00	Point Grey Jazz Band A Brent Taylor	Vancouver, BC
10:30	Grant Park High School Jazz Band Joanne Karlowsky/Dorian Girardin	Winnipeg, MB
1:30	Point Grey Jazz Band B Brent Taylor	Vancouver, BC
3:00	Razzberry Jam Chad Joiner	Abbotsford, BC

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# Evening Concerts

**Sunday April 12th, 2015  
Winspear Centre 8PM**



**Grant MacEwan University Percussion Ensemble**  
Brian Thurgood, Director

*Lalopalooza!*

Andy Smith

*Funkadunk*

Scott Higgins

*Higuita!*

Stephen Whibley

*Until Morning Sings*

David Reeves

*Involution*

Dustin Schultze

*Tribute to Mangione*

Chris Crockarell

*Bonham*

Christopher Rouse

*Interval*

**Grant MacEwan Faculty Trio**  
**with guest Flutist JAMES WALKER**

Andrew Glover – Piano, Sandro Dominelli – Drums, John Taylor - Bass

*Sunday Evening Concert Continued..*

## Evening Concerts Continued...

Music to be selected from the following:

<i>All the Garson Things</i>	Mike Garson
<i>Interaction</i>	Mike Garson
<i>Blackie and Max</i>	Jim Walker
<i>Santiago</i>	Jim Walker
<i>One Night Samba</i>	Tim Lee
<i>Stella by Starlight</i>	Victor Young
<i>Billie's Bounce</i>	Charlie Parker
<i>Cherokee</i>	Joey Tempest

**Andrew Glover** is an accomplished pianist and composer. He is credited with a huge body of work which extends to Europe and the U.S., as well as his home town of Edmonton AB Canada. A talented pianist and composer, Andrew graduated from the Grant MacEwan Community College, and studied solo piano with Adrian Chornowol and Charlie Austin. Andrew worked with Mike Rud, Jack Semple, Kennedy Jensen, Dianne Donovan, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Scott Hamilton and Sheena Easton among others. For over ten years he toured extensively with the Big Miller Band. Six of the eleven compositions on Jack Sample's "Grey and Yellow" CD were written by Andrew, as well as four songs for Dianne Donovan's release "Yes or No". He was also a principal writer for Edmonton's 'Pazzport'. Andrew's compositions and arrangements have been performed or recorded by John Abercrombie, Anna Beaumont, Caroline Mae Johnson, Jacek Kochan, Pat LaBarbera, Theresa Lightfoot, George McFetridge, Don Thompson, Jean-Pierre Zanella, and Alfie Zappacosta.

**Sandro Dominelli** is one of Canada's most creative, talented and tasteful drummers. Through his continuing success' as a much sought-after composer, bandleader, side man, and producer he has proven to be an established luminary in the Canadian music scene. Sandro's musical sensibilities have caught the attention of international and local jazz icons alike, who have been inspired to perform or record with his influence. His collaborations include a long list of the veritable whos who of the jazz scene, such as Joe Lovano, Sheila Jordan, Ernie Watts, Pete Christlieb, Doug Riley, Oliver Jones, Guido Basso, Hugh Fraser, PJ Perry and Tommy Banks. Additionally, he's performed and recorded with such modern contemporary luminaries as Ben Monder, Chris Tarry, Kenny Werner, and Ralph Bowen. As a composer, Sandro hit the scene in 2003 and since then has received rave reviews and accolades for his work. His first recording as band leader – Café Varze Jazz – went on to receive top honors at the Western Canadian Music Awards as Outstanding Jazz Recording of the Year and was also nominated in 2004 for a JUNO in the 'Best Traditional Jazz Album of the Year' category. Sandro's follow-up album – Meet Me In The Alley – brought him more success' including a Canadian Music Week award for 'Favorite Jazz Artist of the Year'.

## Evening Concerts Continued..

Originally from Yorkshire, England, **John Taylor** has performed with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra since 1983. John attended the University of Toronto Faculty of Music and is a graduate of the Orchestral Training Program at the Royal Conservatory. He has been the recipient of scholarships enabling him to attend the American Federation of Musicians Congress of Strings in Seattle, masterclasses at the Banff School of Fine Arts, National Youth Orchestra and Canadian Chamber Orchestra. He has performed with the Thunder Bay Symphony, Orchestra London Canada, Hamilton Philharmonic, Canadian Opera Company and the Toronto Symphony. John is the Section Head of the Bass Department at the Music program at Grant MacEwan Community College and has four children.

## Jim Walker - Guest Flutist



Jim Walker, professor of practice, winds and percussion, graduated with honors from the University of Louisville and went on to play in the United States Military Academy Band at West Point. He subsequently studied with Harold Bennett and eventually won the associate principal flute position with the Pittsburgh Symphony in 1969. Eight years later he became principal flutist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and began working simultaneously in the recording studios for jazz/pop sessions, television and motion pictures and can be heard on over 600 sound tracks. In 2002 he performed with Paul McCartney at the Academy Awards. In 1980, Mr. Walker formed Free Flight, a jazz/classical quartet, resulting in four Tonight Show appearances, 16 recordings and annual tours.

He is a member of the SmartMusic Board of Advisors, a Burkart Performing Artist and a master teacher for the New World Symphony. His flute ensembles and quartets are published and sold through Flute World and he is the writer/creator of the Young Artist Series for Flute (Alfred Music Publishing). Mr. Walker founded the annual Beyond the Masterclass in 2007 and his students hold numerous positions in orchestras around the world. In addition to being coordinator of flute at the Thornton School, Mr. Walker travels extensively giving clinics and master classes around the world.

Evening Concerts Continued...

**Monday April 13th, 2015**  
**Winspear Centre 7PM**  
**\*\*FOR ALL INSTRUMENTAL STUDENTS\*\***



**Concordia University College Symphony Orchestra**  
David Hoyt, Director  
**with guest Flutist JAMES WALKER**

*Selections to be chosen from the following:*

*Movements from A Peer Gynt Suite*

Edvard Grieg

*Carmen Fantasy*

Georges Bizet

*James Walker, Flute Soloist*

*Capriccio Espagnol*

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

*Alborada*

*Variazioni*

*Alborada*

*Scena e canto Gitano*

*Fandango asturiano*

Evening Concerts Continued...

## **McDougall United Church 7PM**

**\*\*FOR ALL CHOIR STUDENTS\*\***



**Monday Choral Showcase**  
**Featuring Point Grey High School Choir**  
**& Mini Workshop by Kokopelli Choirs**

## **Chateau Lacombe Ballroom 8:30PM**

**\*\*FOR ALL STUDENTS\*\***

**Dance and Student Social**  
Sponsored by Affinity Tours

**Tuesday April 14th, 2015**

**Winspear Centre 8PM**

**Mass Choir and Kokopelli Choirs**  
Benila Ninan & Scott Leithead, Directors

*Mass Choir:*

*Be Merciful Unto Me O God*

*There's a Sweet Spirit*

*Kwela Kwela*

Mark Murphy

arr. Idea of North

arr. University of Pretoria Youth Choir



## Evening Concerts Continued...

*Kokopelli's Set will be chosen from:*

<i>Casino</i>	(Finland) Tsumi arr. Tova Olson
<i>Winter Sun</i>	(Canada) Don Macdonald
<i>In Stiller Nacht</i>	(Germany) Johannes Brahms
<i>Salve Regina</i>	(New Zealand) David Childs
<i>Mama Afrika</i>	(Haiti/Africa) Sydney Guillaume
<i>You Asked Me To Speak</i>	(Norway) Kim André Arnesen
<i>Lamma Bada Yatathanna</i>	(Arab-Andalusian) arr. Tova Olson
<i>Mary Did You Know?</i>	(USA) arr. Jen McMillan
<i>Flume</i>	Bon Iver
<i>Hymn of Acxiom</i>	Vienna Teng arr. George Chung
<i>Don't Be Afraid</i>	Allyson Reigh Arr. Jen McMillan
<i>Minoi Minoi</i>	(Samoa) arr. Christopher Marshall
<i>Wairua Tapu</i>	Wehi Whanau (New Zealand)
<i>Te Iwi E</i>	Wehi Whanau (New Zealand)



### **University of Alberta Wind Ensemble**

Dr. Angela Schroeder, Director

Program To be Selected From:

<i>Fanfare Canonique</i>	Brian Balmages
<i>Free Running</i>	Robert Buckley
<i>The Gumsucker's March</i>	Percy Grainger
<i>Emblems</i>	Aaron Copland
<i>Finale from Symphony No. 5</i>	Dmitri Shostakovich

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*Auditions: late February & late April respectively*

Application Deadline: **May 1**

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# Adjudicators

## Wendy Grasdahl (Concert Band)



Wendy Grasdahl is well known across Canada as a conductor, adjudicator/clinician, teacher, and trumpeter. Her professional experience encompasses teaching at university and college levels, as well as military band work and private teaching.

As an officer in the Canadian Naval Reserve, Wendy conducted military bands in Alberta, B.C., and Ontario. She is in demand as a clinician and guest conductor for school programs, as well as summer music programs, including 12 years at the International Music Camp at the Peace Garden on the Manitoba/U.S. border where she received the prestigious Distinguished Service Award for conducting and promoting band in North America. Other awards include the Faculty Association Excellence in Teaching Award from

the University of P.E.I., and the City of Edmonton Salute to Excellence Citation Award in Arts & Culture in 2014.

Having appeared as a trumpet soloist and in professional ensembles across Canada, Wendy is a founding member of the brass quintet “Five of a Kind”, has played Solo Cornet with the Mill Creek Colliery Brass Band, and is a clinician for Yamaha Canada. She is the founder, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of Festival City Winds Music Society. Wendy currently teaches trumpet and is Director of Bands at Concordia University College of Alberta, and regularly adjudicates band festivals at provincial and national levels.

Ms. Grasdahl holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Music History from the University of Alberta, a Master of Music degree in Trumpet Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Calgary, and a graduate level Fine Arts Diploma in Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble Conducting and Literature from the University of Calgary.

## Brian Unverricht (Concert Band)



Born, raised, and educated in Saskatchewan, Brian pursued further musical studies in New Jersey, Australia, France, and the University of Calgary. For many years he taught band, choir, jazz studies, guitar, and general music to students from grades seven through university level in Saskatoon, Australia, Prince Edward Island, and military schools in Germany. He is currently a sessional lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan, teaching music education classes.

Over the years Brian was musical director for 15 high school musicals, and as a proponent of new music, he commissioned eight composers from Saskatoon to write works for various performing groups. As a writer he has been published in *Cadenza*, the *International Trombone Association Journal*, and *Canadian Winds*, was editor of the *Sask. Band Association journal*,

contributed to local music curricula, and wrote a high school guitar course. Recently he became a mentor teacher for emerging band directors.

Outside of school, Brian has been in demand as a low brass clinician, a conductor and/or coordinator for band camps, Brass Days or Jazz Days, an adjudicator for music festivals, and a conductor of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, where he annually conducts music for their "Silence is Golden" event. In recent years he conducted both the University of Saskatchewan concert band and wind orchestra.

Honours include the Saskatchewan Music Educators outstanding Achievement Award that recognizes outstanding accomplishment and an ongoing dedication to excellence in music in 2004, the *Sask. Band Association Distinguished Band Director's* award in 2012, and an honorary life membership in SMEA in 2014. As a trombonist, Brian has been a member of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra for decades, and has performed with various brass quintets and jazz groups over the years. He can also be heard performing with the Toon Town Big Band, the Saskatoon Klezmer band, and the Saskatoon Opera orchestra.

## Robert Taylor (Concert Band)



Robert Taylor is Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Conducting at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Taylor maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor and clinician. Past engagements include performances with the Chicago-based contemporary music group, the MAVERICK Ensemble, in addition to collaborations with a wide range of international artists—from Allen Vizzutti, Gail Williams, and Ingrid Jensen, to Manhattan Transfer and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. He has also made frequent appearances with young musicians, serving as principal conductor of the Puget Sound Youth Wind Ensemble and guest conductor of the CODA/ASTA Honour Orchestra, Humboldt Youth Academy Orchestra, and numerous honour groups.

Dr. Taylor received the Master of Music and Doctor of Music degrees in conducting from Northwestern University and the Bachelor of Arts degree in Trumpet and Music Education from Humboldt State University. His research has been published in GIA's Teaching Music Through Performance in Band series and featured in presentations at several regional and national music conferences.



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## Don Owens (Concert Band)



Don Owens, Coordinator Emeritus of the Jazz Studies and Pedagogy Program, Director Emeritus, Contemporary Music Ensemble, and the National High School Music Institute at Northwestern University, began his tenure at Northwestern University in 1979. Before coming to Northwestern, he taught for twelve years at Evanston (Illinois) Township High School where his duties included directing band, brass ensembles, and jazz band, as well as teaching classes in music theory, popular music, and composition. Owens received the Bachelor of Music Education degree from North Texas

State University, where he also studied Composition and Jazz. His Master of Musical Arts degree is from the University of Illinois, where he majored in Composition. He studied composition with Morgan Powell, Merrill Ellis, Samuel Adler, and Salvatore Martirano. He has won several grants and awards, and is regularly commissioned for new works.

In his first few years at Northwestern, Mr. Owens conducted the Nationally renowned Jazz Ensemble, directed the “Wildcat” Marching Band and Symphonic Band, and taught advanced Method classes for undergraduate Music Education Majors. He eventually was appointed Coordinator of the Jazz Studies and Pedagogy Program, teaching courses in Jazz Writing, Seminar in Jazz Pedagogy, Jazz in the Public Schools, and conducted the Jazz Ensemble. In addition to Owens’ responsibilities in the Jazz area, he served as Director and Primary Conductor of the internationally acclaimed Contemporary Music Ensemble for over 20 years. This group performed over 200 world premiers, as well as the standard 20th century repertory. Mr. Owens is an internationally recognized clinician/conductor. He has served as an adjudicator and has conducted Festival and All-State Concert and Jazz Bands in Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland and Michigan.

## Craig Brennan (Jazz Band)



Trombonist, composer and educator Craig Brennan has been an active performer throughout Canada. A graduate of the New England Conservatory where he received his Master's degree in Jazz Performance, Craig has had the opportunity to work and study with George Russell, Slide Hampton, Bob Brookmeyer, Danilo Perez, George Garzone, Jerry Bergonzi and Marty Ehrlich. Craig Brennan is also the first trombonist in Canada to perform with a complex system of digital harmonizers and looping devices, creating a new sound for the trombone. Craig is a member of the Modo Trio which

released a self titled CD in 2001. Craig has appeared with almost every jazz musician and jazz group in Edmonton, including the Tommy Banks Big Band, latin group Bomba!, and groups outside of Edmonton, including the Bob Brookmeyer Big Band, Jim McNeely Big Band, the Gunther Schuller Jazz Orchestra and the Hugh Frazer Orchestra.

## Scott Leithead (Choral)



Scott Leithead is the Artistic Director of Edmonton's Kokopelli Choir Association and TIME Association. He has conducted provincial and state honour choirs on seventeen occasions and has presented workshops across North America and beyond. Notable appearances include: conducting the Alberta Youth Choir for the Alberta Choral Federation's 40th Anniversary; adjudicating both the ACCC National Competition for Amateur Canadian Choirs and the International Kathaumixw Festival.

In 2008, Scott was on sabbatical in Namibia where he worked with the Mascato Youth Choir and numerous other choirs from southern Africa. He is the president of the Brailletone Music Society for persons with disabilities and a member of three additional national boards as well as the National Youth Music and Art Development Foundation of South Africa. In 2014/15 he will present workshops across Canada and return to conduct numerous honour choirs including: The New Brunswick Youth Choir and The Ellison Canadian Honour Choir.

## Benila Ninan (Choral)



Ms. Benila Ninan is a music teacher, conductor, and clinician living in Vancouver, British Columbia. She is originally from Edmonton, Alberta, where she pursued her studies. Along with her degrees in Music (Voice Performance) and Education at the University of Alberta, Ms. Ninan also studied at the Kodály Institute of the Liszt Academy of Music in Hungary, where she specialized in Music Pedagogy.

Ms. Ninan has worked as a school music teacher and clinician in both British Columbia and Alberta. She has taught all age levels from Kindergarten to Grade 12, including General Music at the elementary level, Grades 6 to 12 Choir, Jazz Choir,

and provided musical direction for Musical Theatre. She has inspired many students to develop a passion for choral music; her approach to teaching encourages students to discover their individual voices while singing in different styles and genres. Ms. Ninan was a vital member of the performing arts team at Edmonton's Victoria School of Performing Arts. She has also taught at Collingwood School in West Vancouver, and currently teaches at The Westside School in Vancouver.

Ms. Ninan's experience as a choral singer and soloist is vast and accomplished. She has sung with Canada's professional choirs including Pro Coro Canada (Edmonton), *musica intima* (Vancouver), and Luminous Voices (Calgary). Ms. Ninan was selected as a singer to represent Canada by the International Federation for Choral Music to participate in five tours with the World Youth Choir, where she had the opportunity to sing under the direction of master conductors and teachers such as Frieder Bernius, Steve Zegree, Peter Erdei and more. In 2008 and 2009 she was invited back to be a section leader for the choir. Highlights from these tours include performing for the Opening Ceremonies of the Olympic Equestrian Events in China and *Europa Cantat* in the Netherlands.

Ms. Ninan draws on her passion for education, her choral experiences from around the globe, and her strong musicianship skills in her approach to sharing the art of choral music with her students.



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