

From Earth to Air

SONGS OF THE ELEMENTS

FRIDAY, 7:00PM

**May
9th
2025**

Calvary United Church
114 25th Street East
Prince Albert, SK

Perry Acorn, Director
Robert Casgrain, Accompanist



Prince Albert Concert Choir
From Earth to Air: Songs of the Elements

O Canada

Calixa Lavallee (1842-1891)

Ad Astra (To the Stars)

Jacob Narverud (b. 1986)

Unclouded Day

Rev. J.K. Alwood (1828-1909)
arr. S. Kirchner

The Ground

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Wood River

Tracy Feher, tenor

Connie Kaldor 9 (b. 1953)
arr. W. Zwozdesky

Famine Song

Blaire Henry, alto
Deanna Roos, soprano
Norm Vetter, bass

VIDA
arr. M. Cullotonl

Bridge Over Troubled Water

Ian Dickson, bass
Amy Hollands, soprano
Peter LaFlamme, bass
Don Tatchell, percussion

Paul Simon (b. 1941)
arr. K. Shaw

~~ INTERMISSION ~~

Lava

Meghan O'Leary, soprano
Scott Roos, tenor

James Ford Murphy
(b. 1950) arr. R. Emmerson

Fire and Rain

Murray Hannigan, bass
Peter LaFlamme, guitar

James Taylor (b. 1948)
arr. G. Gilpin

O Siem

Peter LaFlamme, bass
Don Tatchell, percussion

Susan Aglukark (b. 1967)
arr. S. Dabrusin

Down to the River to Pray

Shelly Acorn, alto
Brenda Kernalleguen, alto
David Zulkoskey, tenor

Traditional
arr. S. Curry

Let the River Run

Twyla Gange, congas
Peter LaFlamme, bass
Corinne Olson, bongos
Don Tatchell, shaker

Carly Simon (b. 1943)
arr. C. H. Johnson

Measure Me, Sky!

Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

PROGRAMME NOTES

AD ASTRA (To the Stars) by J. Narverud



Highly rhythmic in both accompaniment and voices with independent vocal lines, this work simply radiates energy with a message of hope and empowerment: "To the stars through difficulties, look upward, move forward, leave all cares behind." *Proudly sponsored by*

Al and Bev Loustel

UNCLOUDED DAY by J.K. Alwood, arr. S. Kirchner



Unccluded Day, a well-known gospel hymn, was composed by J.K. Alwood and is a staple in American gospel music. It's often arranged for various vocal ensembles and instrumental settings. The hymn's text describes a heavenly home beyond the clouds, a place of peace and beauty. This eight-part [SSAATTBB] arrangement of *Unccluded Day* by Shawn Kirchner is the first movement from "Heavenly Home: Three American Songs."

THE GROUND by O. Gjeilo



Ola Gjeilo was born in Norway in 1978 and moved to the United States in 2001 to begin his composition studies at the Julliard School in New York City. "*The Ground*" is based on a chorale from the last movement of his Sunrise Mass for choir and string orchestra. This chorale is called "*The Ground*" to convey a rooted, solid sense of harmony and peace after the long journey of the Mass through many different emotional landscapes. The final latin text "Dona nobis pacem," translates to "Grant us peace."

WOOD RIVER by C. Kaldor



Canadian singer/songwriter Connie Kaldor was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, where her musical career started at an early age. Since her father was the choirmaster at the local Lutheran Church, Connie and her siblings performed choral duties every Sunday.

The Wood River runs through southern Saskatchewan on the Canadian prairie. It is an old river that winds and twists its way along and is a favourite spot for picnics and lovers' meetings. Connie wrote this love song while living in the busy city of Toronto, thinking back to this beautiful spot where she had once lived. *Proudly sponsored by Feher Financial*

FAMINE SONG by VIDA, arr. M. Cullotoni



Inspired by stories of Sudanese basket weavers, this song expresses the pain and hope experienced by those in the famine of the 1980s. In the midst of hardship, a wonderful new sense of creativity emerged when women began weaving baskets as a means of survival. American women's vocal ensemble VIDA saw the two improvising voices in the central section as the voices of women from other cultures raised in empathy.

BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER by P. Simon, arr. K. Shaw



Kirby Shaw's arrangement of this Simon and Garfunkel hit ballad is contemporary choral writing at its finest. The light, harmonic a cappella opening is contrasted with this soaring, fresh, gospel-style setting. *Bridge Over Troubled Water* is the fifth and final studio album by American folk rock duo Simon & Garfunkel, released on January 26, 1970, by Columbia Records. *Bridge Over Troubled Water* topped the charts in over ten countries and received six Grammy Awards at the 1971 Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year. The album has sold over 25 million copies worldwide, making it one of the best-selling albums of all time and at the time of its release, the best-selling album ever.

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LAVA by J.F. Murphy, arr. R. Emmerson

From the Disney/Pixar short film that accompanied the 2015 hit movie "Inside Out," this sweet "lava" story will have everyone singing along!



FIRE AND RAIN by J. Taylor, arr. G. Gilpin

Fire and Rain by James Taylor is a song with three distinct verses, each referencing different experiences during Taylor's life. The first verse is about the suicide of a friend, Suzanne Schnerr, while Taylor was in London. The second verse deals with Taylor's own struggles with heroin addiction. The third verse relates to his time in a mental hospital and the failure of his band, The Flying Machine, to gain traction. The song's chorus, "I've seen fire and I've seen rain," serves as a powerful reminder of enduring through hardship.

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O SIEM by S. Aglukark, arr. S. Dabrusin

O Siem, sung by Susan Aglukark, is an anthemic song that champions inclusivity and rejects racism and prejudice. The song, which translates to "joyful greeting" in Inuktitut, alternates between English and Inuktitut lyrics, and was a major hit that reached number one on Canadian country and adult contemporary charts in 1995. Aglukark's passionate performance and universal message of unity resonated deeply, marking her as the first Inuk artist to achieve a Top 40 hit. The song's themes of family and belonging, coupled with its powerful message of acceptance, made it a beloved anthem for many.



DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY Traditional, arr. S. Curry

From the film "O Brother, Where Art Thou," this Appalachian-flavored spiritual is a genuine, heartfelt plea for prayer. With a moving solo that expands into a duet, and then a trio, this powerful work creates a deeply emotional Saturday night revival mood.



LET THE RIVER RUN by C. Simon, arr. C.H. Johnson

Craig Hella Johnson's arrangement of Carly Simon's *Let the River Run* features vibrant choral textures supported by a dancing keyboard and percussion accompaniment. This arrangement, popular with choirs of all types, highlights the song's concert-pop qualities. Johnson's work on this song was even featured on a PBS special and was a Grammy-nominated CD.



MEASURE ME, SKY! by E. Hagenberg

Measure Me, Sky! has ascending vocal lines that stretch across a driving accompaniment, as it reaching out to grasp the expanse depicted in Leonora Speyer's rapturous poem. Often feeling like an eagle's wings filled with air while soaring above the land, this impassioned piece builds through key changes and several returns of the opening material before arriving at its brilliant final chord, reflecting "Loveliness, wings for my flight!" This is a perfect song for the 'Land of Living Skies!'



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Anonymous*

Measure Me, Sky!
by Leonora Speyer (1872-1956)

Measure me, sky!
Tell me I reach by a song
Nearer the stars;
I have been little so long.

Horizon, reach out!
Catch at my hands, stretch me taut,
Rim of the world;
Widen my eyes by a thought.

Sky, be my depth,
Wind, be my width and my height,
World, my heart's span;
Loveliness, wings for my flight.

Dear Valued Audience Member:

Thank you for joining us this evening, and for your continued support of the Prince Albert Concert Choir through so many meaningful seasons. Your presence and generous donations at the door are deeply appreciated and truly inspire us to continue sharing high-quality choral music with our community year after year. It is always an honour to sing for you!

For many years, our silver collection—alongside membership fees and grants—has helped sustain the choir. This model reflects the spirit of inclusion and shared contribution that defines us, making it possible for anyone in our community to take part in making or enjoying choral music.

As we continue to grow artistically, so too do the financial needs behind each performance. Rising costs mean we are facing new challenges in maintaining the quality and accessibility of what we do. Your support helps us meet these practical needs, and more importantly, allows us to invest in new choral arrangements and collaborate with local musicians whose talent brings fresh depth and richness to our concerts.

Looking ahead, we want to be transparent: the landscape is shifting, and we are thoughtfully considering what changes may be needed to ensure the choir's sustainability for future seasons. Your ongoing generosity is vital to that journey. Be sure to watch for new opportunities for sponsorship in the coming season—we're excited to expand the ways the community can support this work.

If you feel moved to give a little extra tonight, we warmly invite you to stop by the front table at the end of the concert. Donations can be made in cash, by cheque, or by e-transfer. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a meaningful difference.

Cheques can be made payable to Prince Albert Concert Choir and sent to:

11 Kwasnica Place, Prince Albert, SK, S6X 1A6.

E-transfers may be sent to **donate@paconcertchoir.ca**

From all of us—thank you for sharing your time, support, and love of choral music with us.

The Prince Albert Concert Choir



Joyce

STEVENSON

November 24, 1955 - February 20, 2025

Forever with us in song!

We gather on Treaty 6 Territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place, and travelling route of the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Dene, Nakota Sioux, and Homeland to the Métis. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

May our voices resonate in harmony with the spirit of this land and its diverse cultures.



The Medicine Wheel is a sacred symbol within many Indigenous cultures, often depicted as a circle divided into four sections. It represents the interconnectedness of all things and is used for teaching, healing, and finding balance in life. The four directions (North, South, East, West) are associated with various elements (earth, air, water, fire), seasons, colours, and stages of life, each contributing to the harmony of the individual and community.

The elements - **earth, air, water, and fire** - are the inspiration for this program.

The Prince Albert Concert Choir Spring 2025

SOPRANO

Kathy Derksen
Katelyn Dupuis
Jennifer Epp
Kelly Ewson-Lefevre
Tori Glynn
Amy Hollands
Carol Link
Munja van Heerden
Mary Lou Hoskin
Meghan O'Leary
Tammy Rogerson
Deanna Roos
Heather Roth
Natalie Theissen

ALTO

Shelly Acorn
Frieda Brown
Connie Gerwing
Rachael Groat
Blaire Henry
Arlene Just
Brenda Kernalleguen
Janelle Matice
Belinda Mulligan
Christina Prasse-Krysa
Andrea Rutz
Kayleigh Skomorowski
Margaret Zulkoskey

TENOR

Colleen Bowen
Alex Crawley
Tracy Feher
Clark Rensberry
Scott Roos
Laura Tanyi-Remarck
David Zulkoskey

BASS

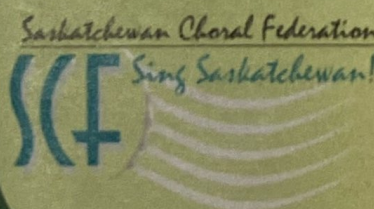
Rene Blom
Ian Dickson
Murray Hannigan
Matt Ireland
Al Loustel
Brock Skomorowski
Will Stafford
Norm Vetter

The Prince Albert Concert Choir was established in 2012 by Robert and Lorna Gibson to give singers an opportunity to sing the finest choral music from a variety of genres, cultures, and languages, and to share joy with all.

With sincere appreciation and thanks...

- Calvary United Church
 - Meghan O'Leary, PACC President
 - Tori Glynn, PACC Vice-President and MC
 - Kelly Ewson-Lefevre, PACC Treasurer
 - Al Loustel, PACC Member-at-Large
 - Tracy Feher, PACC Member-at-Large
 - Natalie Thiessen, PACC Member-at-Large
 - Blaire Henry, PACC Member-at-Large
 - Twyla Gange, congas
 - Corrine Olson, bongos
 - Peter LaFlamme, guitar
 - Don Tatchell, percussion
- Perry Acorn, Director
Robert Casgrain, Accompanist

Tonight's concert is proudly sponsored by



The Saskatchewan Choral Federation, with funding from Sask Lotteries, has provided some of the music performed at this concert.



Visit our website: www.paconcertchoir.ca



Prince Albert Concert Choir

