



Guelph Youth Singers

# Wonders of Childhood

May 25th, 7:00pm

St. George's Anglican Church



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



**Join us for our spring concert!**

**Tickets available at [guelphyouthsingers.com](http://guelphyouthsingers.com)**

Raffles, a door prize, and season-end recognitions too!

# Programme

Marion Samuel-Stevens *Artistic Director & Conductor*

Emily Petrenko *Chamber Choir Conductor*

Derica Scott *Collaborative Pianist*

A-maying, A-playing..... Stephen Chatman

## **Welcome & Introduction of Chamber Choir**

The Animals - Eagle; Tyger..... Ronald A. Beckett

The Road Home..... Stephen Paulus

## **Introduction of Choir I**

Good Night..... Russian Folksong, arr. Doreen Rao

Happiness *from* You're a Good Man Charlie Brown ..... Clark Gesner

## **Introduction of Choir II**

The Garden Song ..... Dave Mallett, arr. Mac Huff

Jabberwocky ..... Sam Pottle

Ciranda da Lua ..... Words & Music by Daisy Fragoso

## **Volunteer & Staff Recognition**

Rocket Man..... Elton John & Bernie Taupen, arr. Derica Scott

Madrigal.....Geddy Lee & Alex Lifson, arr. Karen Ivana

## **Introduction of MPP, Mike Schreiner – OAC Grant Recognition**

Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story *from* Hamilton..... Lin-Manuel Miranda

## **Intermission**

We Will .....Jim Papoulis

Nanay, Tatay ..... Philippine Traditional Song, arr. Kitbielle Pasagui

Child of the Universe..... Craig Cassils

Mulligatawny Macbeth.....Text by William Shakespeare & Music by John E. Govedas

Roads Go Ever On..... Text by J.R.R. Tolkien & Music by Leila Pradell

Crawdad Song ..... Traditional Southern US Folk Song, arr. Aden G. Lewis

## **Board Recognition & 50/50 Draw**

Music in my Mother's House ..... Stuart Stotts, arr. J. David Moore, adapted by Marilyn Epp

Shule Aroon ..... Ruth Elaine Schram

Til the Stars Fall from the Sky ..... Text & Music by Sally K. Albrecht, arr. Jay Althouse

## **Donor and Sponsorship Recognition & Door Prizes and Raffle Draws**

You Could Drive a Person Crazy *from* Company .....Text & Music by Stephen Sondheim

Ton Thé .....Jeanne & Robert Gilmore, arr. Susan Brumfield

## **Certificate & Award Presentations**

Fly!..... Tracy Wong

## **About GYS**

Guelph Youth Singers (GYS) is an award-winning choir with deep roots in our community for over 30 years! GYS works to build choral excellence in Guelph by developing the artistic soul and musical skills of children and youth. GYS aims to support the well-being of children and youth in our community by providing an inclusive space to experience fun and high-quality musical training. Audiences in Guelph are delighted when they hear our young choristers. We strive to brand Guelph as a city that values the arts and recognizes how the arts contribute to the healthy development of youth and children.

## **Our Mission**

To create an inclusive and supportive musical environment where youth in our community can learn, build confidence, and share in something bigger than themselves

## **Our Vision**

We support the well-being of youth through inclusive, fun, and high-quality musical training and performance experience

## **Land Acknowledgment**

The Guelph Youth Singers acknowledge that the land on which we live, learn, and sing is the ancestral land of the Attawandaron people, and the treaty land and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land as well as our responsibility to the land and future generations. We are committed to reconciliation and to building and strengthening our relationships with our First Nations, Inuit, and Métis neighbours.

# Do you love to sing?

We hold summer and mid-year

## VOCAL ASSESSMENTS

for our choirs

{ages 4 and up}

### **New! Mini Music Makers Choir – Ages 4 to 8**

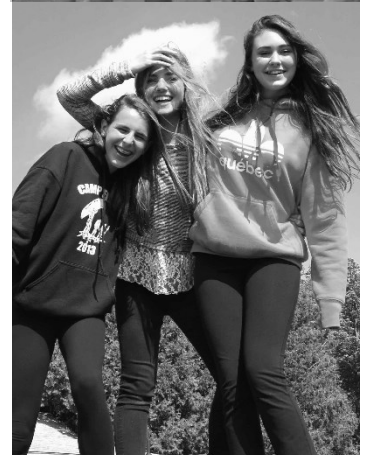
Inclusive, social music education to foster a love of singing  
10-week fall session

Choir I – Beginner training choir

Choir II – Intermediate training choir

Chamber Choir – Advanced training choir

Performance Troupe – Musical theatre & performance-focus



GYS is holding auditions now for entry in September  
Visit [guelphyouthsingers.com](http://guelphyouthsingers.com) to book a Vocal Assessment

## Our Choirs

### **Choir I**

Matilda Clarke  
Amelia Han  
Fern Hellewell

Aria John  
Alexine Madrigal  
Justin McDermott  
Violet Haylee Memoracion

Hillary Rae  
Leméh Wagener  
Mikaela Williams Molnar

### **Choir II**

Rebecca Bilger  
Hannah Collings  
Shelby Cooper-Bivar  
Emmett Gonsalves

Olive Hellewell  
Alice Hohenadel  
Alexis Lalonde  
Esmé Landry

Fen Lucs  
Kira Mulholland  
Julian Stephens  
Ada White

### **Chamber Choir**

Amelia Avdoulos  
Aria Duncan  
Laura Fleming

Isabella Golu  
Cadence Gonsalves  
Kalista Gonsalves

Bridget Hatfield  
Aoibhinn Macken-Luyt  
Leo Stephens

### **Performance Troupe**

Amelia Avdoulos  
Aria Duncan

Laura Fleming  
Cadence Gonsalves

Bridget Hatfield  
Aoibhinn Macken-Luyt

## Our Organization

### **Board of Directors**

Karie Rippin Bilger *Chair*  
Mary-Margaret Annab *Vice Chair*  
Ben Hatfield *Treasurer*  
Renee Bowler-Avdoulos *Secretary*  
Megan Collings  
Kyle Hellewell  
Markus King  
Paul Lalonde  
Tim LeBlanc  
Andrew White

### **Artistic Staff**

Marion Samuel-Stevens *Artistic Director & Conductor*  
Emily Petrenko *Chamber Choir Conductor*  
Derica Scott *Collaborative Pianist*  
Laura Fleming *Choirs I & II Assistant Director*  
Emily Steers *Mini Music Makers Director*

### **Administration**

Heather Fleming *Choir Coordinator*  
Genevieve Barlow *Publicity*  
Cathy Meggison *Bookkeeper*

## **GYS Kiwanis Choir**

This is the inaugural year for the GYS Kiwanis Choir. 6 local schools from both the Wellington Catholic District School Board and the Upper Grand District School Board are participating: Holy Rosary Catholic School, King George P.S., Paisley Road P.S., Rickson Ridge P.S., St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic School, and St. Joseph Catholic School.

This initiative has been accomplished by the combined forces of the Kiwanis Music Festival of Guelph and the Guelph Youth Singers. The Festival received a generous bequest a few years ago from the estate of Oscar & Clara Bookbinder and one of the mandates for the funding was community outreach.

Thanks is due to Markus Howard and Heather Fleming for laying the groundwork for this collaboration and huge appreciation is due to Emily Petrenko and the Guelph Youth Singers organization as a whole for bringing this idea from concept to reality.

Approximately 150 elementary school students have taken part in this initiative and have received free training from GYS professional conductors, Emily Petrenko and Marion Samuel-Stevens. Each chorister has received a T-shirt and all their music free of charge. They also received a Swag Bag full of goodies at their last rehearsal.

We hope the choristers and their school teachers and directors have enjoyed this experience and have found it worthwhile and productive. GYS extends an invitation for all GYS Kiwanis Choir participants to schedule a vocal assessment and consider joining GYS in September. We also offer Musical Theatre Summer Camps that may be of interest to all students heading to grades 1 through 8 in the fall.

It has been an honour and a privilege to welcome so many beautiful, young singers into our organization for this exciting new collaboration. We look forward to offering something similar again next year.





## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, JUNIOR CHOIRS CONDUCTOR & PERFORMANCE TROUPE COACH – MARION SAMUEL-STEVENSON



Canadian Soprano, Marion Samuel-Stevens, has been described as an engaging, direct performer and actress. Her performances range from the intimacy of recitals to the grandeur of opera. Marion has been the Ontario winner of the NATS Artist Awards competition and second runner up in the regional NATSAA competition in Indiana, where her voice was described as “*beautiful and rich with evenness and colour throughout*”. She was also a semi-finalist in the prestigious Eckhardt-Grammatté competition which gives special attention to new Canadian music. In both competitions Marion showed her well-developed ability to switch between a wide variety of vocal and dramatic styles with efficiency and finesse.

Marion has performed across Canada and the United States and Europe. She is a graduate from the University of Toronto’s Voice Performance program where she also participated in the prestigious Opera Undergraduate program. As well as studies at Wilfrid Laurier University she has attended many prestigious enrichment programs across North

America and Europe where she had the pleasure of studying with many acclaimed international musicians including Elly Ameling, Rudolph Jansen, and Martin Katz.

Marion is an adjunct professor of Voice at the University of Guelph where she is active in creating a new program for contemporary music. She also maintains a private studio, with students going on to careers as classical soloists, musical theatre performers, music therapists, actors and teachers. She is the director of the Guelph Youth Singers Musical Theatre Summer Camps and has been the director of the operetta camp at the Southern Ontario Suzuki Institute (SOSI) since 2018. She also serves as the conductor of the Guelph Youth Singers Junior Choirs and has conducted several ensembles in the Guelph and surrounding area. Described as “intelligent, relatable, and engaging” she is sought after as a clinician and adjudicator.

Marion has sung in choirs since the age of 8, including the *Canadian Children’s Opera Chorus* with John Tuttle, the *Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir* with Robert Cooper, the *Ontario Youth Choir* with Lee Willingham, Deral Johnson and Elmer Eisler, and professionally in the *Nathaniel Dett Choral*, the *Elora Festival Singers*, *Mississauga Choral Society*, *Arcady*, the *Boris Brott Festival Choir*, and the *Guelph Chamber Choir*.

An avid supporter of new music, she has had the pleasure of debuting several works by Canadian composer, Peter Skoggard, as well as performing works by Ronald A. Beckett, Jake Heggie, Ricky Ian Gordon, and John Harbison all under the guidance of the composers themselves. Her unique approach to poetry and ability to interpret challenging works with ease has also allowed her to perform in the Bohlen-Pierce scale. Of her portrayal in Ronald A. Beckett’s *Ruth*, “*Marion Samuel-Stevens was outstanding in the title role. Her warm, full voice floated across the registers, especially to some silvery, shiver producing high notes. I found I was keenly looking forward to her next solo moment.*” – Murray Charters

Equally comfortable on the operatic and concert stage, Marion is sought after for her subtle interpretations of text and character, as much as for her warm, supple, and luminous voice.

Focusing her continuing education on the ever-changing field of vocal pedagogy and health, Marion has attended the Commercial and Contemporary Music Vocal Pedagogy Institute at Shenandoah University as well as completing certification in Vocal Health First Aid and Vocal Habilitation through Vocal Health Education in the UK. Marion is currently completing her Master’s in Vocal Pedagogy from the University of Wales (Voice Study Centre) where her area of focus is the athleticism of singers as well as the parallels between athletic and vocal

coaching. She plans to write a handbook on coaching techniques for music instructors, highlighting the most effective ways to intrinsically motivate students.

As a conductor, Marion's goals are to create a challenging and supportive environment in which students can find their own unique voice as well as explore different vocal colours and their impact on a choral sound. Combining excellence in performance and healthy singing she motivates choristers to work hard while creating community and learning.

## **CHAMBER CHOIR CONDUCTOR – EMILY PETRENKO**

Born in London, Ontario, Emily started piano lessons and singing in choir at the age of three. She grew up playing wind and percussion instruments in concert bands, jazz groups, and percussion ensembles, and rapidly developed a love of music. Emily earned an Associate Performer's Diploma through Conservatory Canada (piano), a Bachelor of Music (piano and voice) and Chamber Music Diploma from Wilfrid Laurier University, as well as a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Music in Literature and Performance (solo piano) from the University of Western Ontario.



In her early career, Emily taught private lessons in piano, voice, and theory. She adjudicated at many music festivals, developed workshops for Conservatory Canada, and presented them to music teachers across Canada. Emily established programs like the Elora Youth Singers and the Elora Festival Kids Camp—a program she ran for 14 summers during which children performed a musical after only five days of rehearsals. For several years, Emily was the Music Director for the Centre Wellington Singers and was the Artistic Director of the

Mississauga Children's Choir.

For more than two decades, Emily sang with the professional Parish Choir of St. John the Evangelist in Elora, and participated in numerous recordings on the Naxos and independent labels. She directed St. John's Volunteer Choir for 11 years and their Youth Choir for 18 years. As a qualified educator and member of the Ontario College of Teachers, Emily has a vast range of experience teaching instrumental music, vocal music, guitar, and elementary music in public and private schools. Emily is currently a teacher with the Upper Grand District School Board

at École King George Public School in Guelph and is proud to be a Google Certified Educator. In addition to her day job, Emily is a member of the College of Examiners of the Royal Conservatory of Music, and currently serves as an online and in-person examiner. At home, Emily enjoys life with her husband Jurgen on a 24-acre hobby farm near Elora. They reap the benefits of an organic life tending to their gardens, two dogs, two horses, twenty-four chickens (including Fabio, the rooster), and approximately two million honeybees.

Emily is thrilled to join the Guelph Youth Singers' team this season!



## **COLLABORATIVE PIANIST & ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR – DERICA SCOTT**



Derica Scott is an accomplished pianist currently studying at Wilfrid Laurier University in the history, critical analysis, and theory department. She has a decade of experience teaching piano and voice of all ages and styles. Her most recent accomplishments are her accolades in both Royal Conservatory performance and theory exams and one-on-one work with vocalists through the NATS vocal competition and university juries. As an alumnus of GYS, it is her pleasure to be able to work with the choir as a collaborative pianist.

## **CHOIRS I & II ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – LAURA FLEMING**



Laura Fleming is a grade twelve student at John F. Ross CVI. She has been a GYS chorister since the age of six. She has enjoyed assisting with the musical theatre summer camps over the past three years. Laura is thrilled to be on staff as the Choir I and II Assistant Director. Marion Samuel-Stevens is Laura's vocal coach and she studies cello with Andrea Cook. Laura has played cello since the age of four and is a member of the most senior ensembles at the Suzuki String School of Guelph. Laura has been involved in a variety of productions with the ensemble Arcady, in Brantford, for as long as she can remember. Laura has competed in the Kiwanis Music Festival for many years and has sung at the OMFA Provincials three times, earning an honourable mention in 2019. She is currently serving as a choral scholar at St. George's Anglican Church, and is hoping to pursue a career in Music and Drama.

## **Thank you to our generous donors**

Karie Rippin Bilger & Scott Bilger

Alan Cook

Dennis Deters

Michelle Elzby

Christa Haanstra & Paul Lalonde

Geoff & Heather Glass

Ben Hatfield

Markus Howard

Heather Mair

Cathy Meggison

Ann Middleton

Anne Monkhouse

Deanna Sharpe

## **Thank you to our season sponsors**

City of Guelph

Linamar

Ontario Arts Council & the Government of Ontario

## **Thank you to our Choir II mentor**

Isabella Golu

## **Congratulations to These Choristers Receiving Certificates Tonight**

### **5-Year Certificate**

Isabella Golu

Leo Stephens

### **Our Graduates**

Aria Duncan

Bridget Hatfield

Laura Fleming

## **Cathy Meggison Volunteerism Award Recipients**

Isabelle Funk - 2019

Samantha Becker - 2020

Genevieve Barlow - 2021

Aria Duncan - 2022

Laura Fleming - 2023

# Translations

## Ciranda da Lua

Brazilian Circle Dance

*Lua, Lua, Lua,  
traz meu bem.  
Ped à lua cheia Que te fosse visitor  
E que depois à mim trouxesse  
A luz do teu olhar.*

Moon, moon, moon,  
bring my love back to me.  
I asked the full moon to meet you  
And then bring me  
the brightness of your gaze.

## Nanay, Tatay

Philippine Traditional Hand Clapping Song

*Nanay, Tatay gusto ko'ng tinapay.  
Ate, Kuya gusto ko'ng kape.  
Lahat ng gusto ko ay susundin ninyo,  
Ang magkamali ay pipingutin ko.  
Isa, dalawa, tatlo, apat  
lima, anim, pito, walo  
Aray!*

Mother, Father I want bread.  
Elder sister, elder brother I want coffee.  
All I want, you're gonna do (You'll do exactly as I say),  
If you make a mistake, I'll pinch your ear.  
One, two, three, four  
Five, six, seven, eight  
Ouch!

## **Shule Aroon**

Traditional Irish Song

*Shule, shule, shule aroon,  
Shule go succir agus, shule go cuin;  
Shule go teir andurrus oggus eli glume,  
Is go de mavourneen slawn.*

Come, come, come O love,  
Quickly come to me, softly move,  
Come to the door and away we'll flee,  
And safe forever may my darling be.

**Thank you to our Season Sponsors**



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