

PROFILES 2025

Choirs from around the world



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VOICES CARRY

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qathet Living is tuned in to the heart of the community, and we're proud to share the voices, history, and creativity of qathet.

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The International Choral qatoaymux (Kathaumixw) is a five-day choral festival filled with concerts, common song singing, choral and vocal solo competitions, conductors' seminars and social events. The festival is a place where all can learn from each other and from world-renowned choral personalities.

 \dot{q} a \dot{t}^0 aymıx* (kah-thigh-miew) • Why the change in spelling of the word you are used to seeing as <u>K</u>athaumixw? Over the past couple of decades, there have been ongoing language preservation and revitalization efforts by Tla'amin Nation, alongside their sister nations Homalco, Klahoose, and K'ómoks. The written orthography of 2ay2ayu θ am (ay-ah-joo-thum) has shifted and has resulted in a standardized way of recording and spelling words using the International Phonetic Alphabet. A standardized alphabet helps to accurately record the unique sounds of the language, preserving it for generations to come.

The Academy's relationship with Tla'amin Nation is important. As we create beautiful music and arts on their traditional territory, there is a great necessity and importance in uplifting and honouring their voice and language. Additionally, the name qathaymux is one that was gifted to the academy by Tla'amin. A gift of a name comes with many responsibilities, including one of mutual respect built and maintained through partnership and relationships. Updating the spelling is just a small step we will be taking to uphold this special gift.

The meaning is the same: A Gathering Together of Different People, and the festival is the same that you know and love. Over the coming months and years, we look forward to growing our relationship with Tla'amin, and to making continual improvements on this.

Use this publication to acquaint yourself with the talented choirs, distinguished adjudicators, and esteemed guests who make qathaymix a truly special event. Inside, you will also find a ticket order form which shows the full festival schedule to help you plan your experience. Bring the order form into the Academy to purchase your tickets or use the QR code to purchase online.

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The International Choral qateaymux (Kathaumixw) acknowledges that we are honoured to live, work, and create on the traditional territory of the Tla'amin, Homalco and Klahoose Nations.

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Information accurate at time of printing • Program subject to change.

On the cover • Korora Youth Choir (Edmonton) at Kathaumixw 2023

Photo by Arlan Smallwood

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

The heart of ˈqat̄θaymɪxw (Kathaumixw) beats stronger thanks to the dedication of our volunteers. Your generosity and enthusiasm help create a welcoming, enriching experience for all. Whether guiding choirs, assisting behind the scenes, or opening your home to guests, every act of kindness shapes unforgettable festival memories.

Volunteering at qateaymıx is an opportunity to immerse yourself in a global celebration of music and friendship. Connect with people from around the world, meet inspiring artists, and experience the magic of bringing people together through song.

Becoming a ˈqateaymıxw volunteer is an opportunity to gain valuable experience, all while contributing to something truly special. Take pride in knowing you helped make this festival possible.

Would you like to be part of this unique festival? Whether you have a few hours or a few days to spare, there's a role for you. Scan the QR code to sign up today!

Homestay

You will have the opportunity to host one or more choir members. Providing homestay allows you to interact on a very personal level with people from different cultures. While the choir members are guests in your home, you will be responsible for providing them with a bed, breakfast and transportation to the venue in the morning and home again at the end of the day.

Transportation

Drivers transport choir members to and from the different venues. Class 4 license holders are also needed to drive passenger and cargo vans.

Usher

Ushers take tickets, monitor entrances and exits, hand out programs and help with seating arrangements during the international concerts and competitions.

Choir Host

Choir Hosts meet the choirs upon arrival in Powell River and orientate them with the festival program and site. You will also assist the choir with arrangements during the festival week.

Meal Service

Meal Service volunteers assist with distributing participant lunches, serving conductors round table lunches and other festival social events.

Venue Manager/Stage Crew

Stage crews assist with stage setup and performer requirements during concerts and competitions.

Box Office

Box office volunteers sell tickets one month prior to <u>Kathaumixw</u> as well as during the festival.

Facilities

Volunteers are needed for site setup and construction prior to the

festival and for site tear down and clean up after the festival. If you have a special trade or skill, please let us know.

Clerical

Helping with general clerical tasks before and/or during the festival.



ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Academy Chamber Choir • Powell River, Canada



The **Academy Chamber Choir**, conducted by Walter Martella, consists of 37 singers from a wide variety of backgrounds and professions. It is an amateur choir that, since its inception in 1994, has developed into one of Canada's dynamic chamber choirs.

The choir has had the privilege of working with such celebrated conductors as the late Elmer Iseler (Canada), Jesper Jorgensen (Denmark), Jan Szyrocki (Poland) and Fred Sjoberg (Sweden). The choir has toured in Venezuela, Czech Republic, Sweden, Canada, Mexico, Spain and France.

The Choir specializes in a cappella music from the Middle Ages to the 20th century and regularly commissions new works by Canadian composers. They frequently collaborate with soloists, instrumentalists and other choirs in the performance of major choral works such as Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Francis Poulenc's *Gloria* and Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.



Male ENsemble Philippines • Quezon City, The Philippines



The **Male ENsemble Philippines** (MEn) is an emerging group of singers from different world-class and award-winning choral groups, bound by passion and love for ensemble singing. They have made it their mission to continue to promote Philippine culture and arts through music.

Since 2018, the group has performed in numerous concerts and events all over the Philippines and abroad, alongside esteemed musical artists such as the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra and the Philippine Madrigal Singers. The group has also participated in performances organized by government institutions such as the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Cultural Center of the Philippines and has collaborated with non-government and private organizations in holding workshops and benefit concerts all around the country. In 2019, MEn toured several countries in Europe such as Spain, Italy, Sweden, and Norway to promote the Celebration of 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines.

Aspiring to create music that transcends beyond what one can simply hear, the group performs a wide range of classical, jazz, popular music, timeless folk songs, and Filipino music, and continues to expand its repertoire through newly commissioned arrangements and compositions.



dateaymıxw (Kathaumixw) Brass Ensemble • CANADA

The 2025 qat^θaymix^w Festival Brass Ensemble is comprised of freelance musicians and brass educators based in Victoria, BC, and includes **Paul Beauchesne**, tuba; **Merrie Klazek**, trumpet; **Scott MacInnes**, trombone, **Sam McNally**, horn. These musicians regularly perform in many different settings with a wide range of prominent artists, are players with numerous regional orchestras in British Columbia and abroad, are educators in Victoria including the UVic School of Music and are active clinicians and adjudicators. Joining the ensemble from Powell River are **Barrie McDonald**, trumpet; and **Adam Robertson**, percussion, who are thrilled to return to the qat^θaymix^w stage performing in the Festival Brass Ensemble.















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Lazslo Tamasik Dance Academy • Powell River, Canada





The Laszlo Tamasik Dance Academy offers a variety of dance classes with professional instruction, with a belief in quality instruction focused on technique. The Dance Academy understands how important a child's interest and participation in dance is to their health, confidence and overall happiness. They offer a family-oriented environment with qualified teaching staff and a variety of classes for different ages.

Paige Anderson began dancing at age three, focusing on Ballet with training in both RAD and Cecchetti methods. She spent summers at prestigious schools like the Royal



Winnipeg Ballet, Alberta Ballet, and the National Ice Dance Centre. A former national-level ice dancer, Paige placed 7th in Canada and later served as Head Coach of Powell River's skating club for eight years.

She is a National Level 3 Certified Coach and IDTS Certified, with experience in jazz, modern, musical theatre, ballroom, and figure skating. Since 1998, Paige has taught and choreographed dancers and skaters across provincial and national levels. Now the owner and artistic director of LTDA, she has led dancers to perform at Disneyland, win numerous awards across B.C., and gain acceptance into top North American intensives.

In 2023, she received the Mentor Award at Shine Dance Festival. Passionate about creative projects, she also collaborates with ONE5films to produce dance films. Known for her firm yet supportive coaching style, Paige is committed to building confident, hardworking, and collaborative young performers.

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GUEST CHOIRS

Young People's Chorus of New York City • New York, USA



The Young People's Chorus of New York City is a multicultural youth chorus internationally renowned for its superb virtuosity, brilliant showmanship, and innovative model of artistic excellence and diversity that enriches the community.

Founded by Artistic Director Francisco J. Núñez, a MacArthur Fellow and Musical America's 2018 Educator of the Year, YPC's mission and values are deeply rooted in providing children of all cultural and economic backgrounds with a unique program of music education and choral performance. It is committed to empowering its youth and providing pathways to success through the arts so that each child, no matter what race, gender, socioeconomic background, or religion, can reach their full potential.



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Toronto Children's Choir • Toronto, Canada



Founded in 1978 by Jean Ashworth Bartle CM, O.ONT. and subsequently led by Artistic Directors **Elise Bradley**, MNZM (2007-2021) and **Dr. Zimfira Poloz** (2022-present), the Toronto Children's Chorus has been a cornerstone of choral excellence in Toronto and Canada for over 45 years.

Throughout its illustrious history, the Chorus has graced world-renowned stages including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Sydney Opera House, Royal Albert Hall, and The Dom in Salzburg. As choral ambassadors, the TCC has represented Canada on 33 international tours and seven national tours. The TCC has also earned accolades at several prestigious competitions, including the International Eisteddfod in Wales, the *Let the Peoples Sing* competition in Europe, the CBC National Radio Competition, and the International Choral Kathaumixw. As the TCC celebrates its 47th concert season, it continues to build on a legacy of musical achievement and international recognition.

CLINICIANS, ADJUDICATORS & COLLABORATORS

Walter Martella • Powell River, Canada Artistic Director, Jury

Conductor and Music Director of the Powell River Academy of Music, Artistic Director of the International Choral <u>Kathaumixw</u>, and co-director of the qathet Accordion Fest, **Walter Martella** is an accomplished pianist, accordionist, and trumpeter. He earned a Diploma in Jazz Trumpet from Malaspina College (VIU) and a Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Victoria. He also completed the Jazz Intensive Studies program at the Banff School of Fine Arts, and the British Columbia Choral Federation's conducting program.



Walter leads the choral program at the Academy of Music. He conducts the Academy Chamber Choir, Chor Musica Men's Choir, the Academy children and youth choirs, and the Powell River Chorus. He also maintains a full private teaching schedule and regularly leads choral workshops.

Walter is a strong believer in the power of music as an important part of community and has been an adjudicator for instrumental and choral festivals throughout British Columbia. He has recorded seven studio albums, performed provincially with many well-known musicians in multiple genres, and continues to be in demand all along the West Coast as a trumpet soloist, accordionist, and jazz pianist.

Dr. Zimfira Poloz • Toronto, Canada Adult Common Song Director, Jury

Dr. Zimfira Poloz is an award-winning conductor, educator, and internationally respected adjudicator. With boundless energy, she nurtures young musicians, believing that "brilliance has no age." She has received numerous honors, including the Honoured Representative of Education of Kazakhstan, Hamilton's VIP Award, and the Leslie Bell Prize for Choral Conducting.

She teaches Vocal Pedagogy for Young Choirs at the University of Toronto and serves as a Canadian representative for Choral Space and the Interkultur World Choir Council. She is also a board member of the World Alliance of Children's Choirs and an editor for Cypress Choral Music.



Originally from Kazakhstan, where she founded the nation's first choir school, Zimfira's talent was recognized upon her arrival in Canada by Jean Ashworth-Bartle. She has conducted at St. Michael's Choir School and served as Artistic Director of the Hamilton Children's Choir and Young Voices Toronto. Now, as Artistic Director of TCC, she has come full circle, returning to her musical home.

Elizabeth Núñez • New York, USA

Children's Choir Common Song Director, Jury

Flizabeth Núñez is the Creative Director of the award-winning Young People's Chorus of New York Elizabeth City (YPC) and the founding artistic director of the SoHarmoniums Women's Choir. At YPC, she directs children aged 8 to 18 in rehearsals, performances, and tours, impacting 2,000 young singers annually. Since joining in 2004, she has led YPC at prestigious venues like Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, on national television, and in international choral competitions, earning top honors, including "Choir of the World" at the Choral Kathaumixw Festival. She also oversees YPC's School Choruses program, reaching over 1,200 children in 20 New York City



schools, and founded the WIT: Women Inspiring Tomorrow mentorship initiative.

Beyond YPC, Elizabeth directs the intergenerational SoHarmoniums Women's Choir, which has grown from six to over 60 members performing across New York City. A sought-after choral clinician, she has conducted All-State Honor Choirs and led workshops nation-wide, including at the ACDA Eastern Regional Conference. She holds a Master of Music Education from the University of Oklahoma and a Bachelor of Music Education from Lee University, which honored her as a Distinguished Alumnus for her dedication to transforming young lives through music. She also serves on the Chorus America Board.



Dr. Larry Nickle • Vancouver, Canada

Jury

This is **Dr. Larry Nickel's** fourth venture to <u>Kathaumixw</u> as adjudicator and/or choir director. His music has been performed widely; in every Canadian Province, in each of the 50 States and throughout the world. Larry had his first choir directing position when he was 17. He taught high school performing arts for 25 years, directing 50 stage productions (e.g. *The Mikado, HMS Pinafore, Fiddler on the Roof*) on top of the regular teaching load (Concert Bands, Jazz Bands, Choirs, Hand-



bells, Drama and Acting). In 1993 Larry won the International Association for Jazz Education Award for "outstanding service to jazz education". His senior choir was selected two years in a row, 2001 and 2002, by Varsity Vocals' International Search for the Best of High School Choirs. Larry sang professionally in the Vancouver Chamber Choir for six years. Larry left teaching in 2003 and returned to University. At that time he had 60 pieces in print with 12 publishers. Over 60,000 people performed Larry's music in 2016 (when an account was taken).

In 1989 Larry nearly died from viral encephalitis. Emerging from a coma after 15 days he decided to devote more time to composition and (as J.S. Bach put it) "soli Deo gloria". Tony Funk and Larry formed the West Coast Mennonite Chamber Choir in 1990. This stellar choir produced 13 CDs, over 15 years, which included 120 Nickel compositions and arrangements. The proceeds from the CD sales (over a million dollars) were donated to a local charity for mentally challenged people. Larry's doctoral thesis, *Requiem for Peace* (in 13 languages), has received 27 worldwide performances thus far.



We are proud to welcome our visitors from around the world to the International Choral Kathaumixw

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Scott Leithead • Edmonton, Canada

Jury

Scott Leithead is the founder and Artistic Director of Edmonton's Kokopelli Choir Association and TIME Association. He has been invited to conduct provincial and state honour choirs on twenty-five occasions and has presented workshops in North America and beyond. Scott has a passion for music from southern Africa, and he has been invited to work with choirs in South Africa and Namibia on numerous occasions.

Under his direction, Kokopelli was the winner of both the 2015 CBC National Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs and both the 2015 and 2016 Canadian National Music Competition. In the summer of 2019, Kokopelli was invited to perform at the IFCM World Choral Expo in Portugal, where they



represented Canada on the world stage. Also in 2019, Kokopelli was featured on an episode of CTV's *The Amazing Race Canada*.

Scott is a long-time member of the advisory committee for the Canadian Rocky Mountain Music Festival. He is also past president of the Braille Tone Music Society as well as the National Youth Music and Art Development Foundation of South Africa.

Scott was awarded Choir Alberta's top honour, the Richard S. Eaton Award in 2015, the Salute to Excellence award in 2016 and the Syncrude Award for Innovative Direction.



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Megan Skidmore • Powell River, Canada

Jury

Soprano Megan Skidmore holds both her Bachelor and Master's degrees in Voice Performance from McGill University, A Bachelor of Education from Simon Fraser University and diplomas from the Schubert Institut, Weiner Meisterkurze and Mozarteum in Austria. Currently on staff with the Powell River School District, Ms. Skidmore is an acclaimed voice teacher and music director for musical theatre productions.

An active performer, Ms. Skidmore has received praise for her 'vocal fireworks' in numerous opera and operetta roles including Cunegonde in *Candide* with Opera McGill, Josephine in *HMS Pinafore* with the McGill Savoy Society and *Annina* in La Traviata with Pacific Opera Victoria. She also has a busy performance schedule in solo recital, concert repertoire and as oratorio soloist in Dvořak's *Te*



Deum, Fauré's Requiem, Saint-Säens' Christmas Oratorio, Handel's Messiah, and Haydn's The Creation.

Ms. Skidmore has been a featured soloist with the Sooke Philharmonic and BC Chorfest. She has served as a judge for the Canadian Juno Awards in both Classical Voice/Choral and Children's Music and has toured British Columbia as an adjudicator for Regional Performing Arts Festivals.

Currently, Ms. Skidmore is a dedicated music teacher for the qathet School District in Powell River, where she shares her passion for music education and musical theatre.



Gergana Velinova • Vancouver, Canada

Jury



"The honey-voiced vocalist," as the Toronto Sun called **Gergana Velinova**, has inspired international audiences with her diverse artistic talents. A native of Bulgaria, she has lived and performed throughout the USA, Europe, and Canada including Los Angeles, Boston, New York, Seattle, and Vancouver.

With a repertoire extending from her own compositions to Ellington, Jobim and Mozart, Gergana is equally comfortable in the world of Jazz, Art Song and Musical Theatre. Gergana has shared the stage and recorded with Juno and Grammy nominees. She has released six solo albums which have received critical acclaim and reached in the TOP 10 of the US CMJ Top 40, Roots Music and the Earshot USA and Canadian Jazz Charts.

In addition to her performance career, she is well known for her work as a Vocal

Coach, Choral Conductor, Vocal Workshops and Master Classes facilitator. Before moving to Vancouver, she served on the Jazz Department faculty of the Victoria Conservatory of Music and Camosun College.

Gergana holds a Master's Degree in Jazz & Contemporary-Classical Voice Performance from the Longy School in Boston.



Dr. Moira Hopfe-Ostensen • Powell River, Canada

Collaborative Accompanist



Dr. Moira Hopfe-Ostensen is a renowned pianist and educator, praised for her expressive playing and engaged teaching. An active soloist and collaborative pianist, Dr. Moira has performed throughout Canada, the U.S.A., and Europe.

She holds degrees from the University of Alberta, the Royal College of Music, the Royal Academy of Music (London, England), and a Doctorate of Music Degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS), Fort Worth, Texas. Dr. Moira held the position as Chair of the Keyboard Department at SWBTS where she was Professor in Piano Performance and Pedagogy. She was the Director of the Southwestern Music Academy and Assistant Director of the Southwestern Centre of the Arts. Other study and teaching locations include Arizona State University, the University of Western Ontario, the University of British Columbia,

the Banff School of Fine Arts, and the Johanneson Summer School of the Arts, Victoria.

Dr. Moira is an adjudicator, examiner, and clinician committed to excellence in piano pedagogy. She is certified as an Advanced Specialist by the Royal Conservatory of Music and is a member of the College of Examiners in both Canada and the U.S.A. Her students have achieved national and international recognition, and her research has been published in the Library of Congress. She has received multiple awards, including a Professional Distinction Award from the Peace Hills Arts Council, Canada.

Currently, Dr. Moira serves as Artist in Residence at the Powell River Academy of Music in British Columbia.

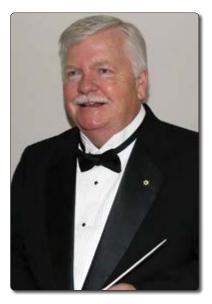


Don James, CM • Powell River, Canada

Founding Artistic Director Emeritus

Mr James settled in Powell River after graduating in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Washington in the early 1970s. He has enjoyed a successful career as a conductor, music educator and musical entrepreneur. He is the Founder and Artistic Director Emeritus, Powell River Academy of Music, International Choral Kathaumixw and Symphony & Opera Academy of the Pacific and is President of the Board of Directors of the Powell River Academy of Music.

A mentor and an inspiration to a countless number of his students and colleagues, Mr James' influence in creating connections between musicians cannot be overstated; he has reached out to the global music community throughout his career. He has served as president of the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors, the British Columbia Association of Community Music Schools and, for a decade, was Canada's representative on the Board of Directors of



the International Federation for Choral Music and as a member of the Music Council of the World Choir Games. Mr James is the recipient of the Willan Award and Canada's highest honour, the Order of Canada, in recognition of his distinguished service to music.





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Jake's Gift

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November 2025

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Mysteries of the Keyhole House

November 2025

Piano Heist

A Very Merry Heistmas

December 2025



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January 2026



Returning to the Max

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April 2026



Returning to the Max



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dat⁰aymıx^w 2025 Concert Ticket Order Form

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Tuesday • July 1 • 7:30 pm • GALA OPENING • \$35

1 Great Hall Parade of Choirs • International Choral Spotlights • qataymux Festival Chorus & Brass Ensemble

Wednesday • July 2 • 3:00 pm • AFTERNOON CONCERTS • \$25

2 Evergreen Theatre

- Powell River Chorus, Canada
 - Kôr, Canada
- The Squares, Canada
- Coro Femenino Cantate, Costa Rica

4 Academy Hall

- Richmond Singers, Canada
- Campanella Children's Choir, USA
- Taipei Philharmonic Youth & Children's Choir, *Taiwan*

Wednesday • July 2 • 7:30 pm • EVENING CONCERTS • \$25

6 Max Cameron Theatre

Toronto Children's Chorus, Canada

Komorni zbor MEGARON, Slovenia

3 Max Cameron Theatre

Espiritu Vocal ENsemble, Canada
 Brooks Chamber Choir, Canada

5 Evergreen Theatre

- The Squares, Canada
- Male ENsemble, Philippines
- Toronto Children's Chorus, Canada
- King's College Kappella, New Zealand

7 Academy Hall

- Espiritu Vocal ENsemble, Canada
- Coro Femenino Cantate, Costa Rica
 - Komorni zbor MEGARON, Slovenia

Thursday • July 3 • 3:00 pm • AFTERNOON CONCERTS • \$25

Campanella Children's Choir, USA

Male ENsemble, Philippines

9 Max Cameron Theatre

Young People's Chorus of New York City, USA

Yavir Ukrainian Male Chorus

of Edmonton, Canada

Richmond Singers, Canada

Kôr, Canada

8 Evergreen Theatre

- Kôr, Canada
- King's College Kappella, New Zealand
- Komorni zbor MEGARON, Slovenia Taipei Philharmonic Youth & Children's Choir, Taiwan
 - Young People's Chorus of New York City, USA

10 Academy Hall

- Academy Apprentice Choir, Canada
 - Academy Singers, Canada
 - Chor Musica, Canada
- Yavir Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton, *Canada*

Thursday • July 3 • 7:30 pm • CHORAL SHOWCASE • \$35

11 Great Hall Enjoy Guest Choirs & Participate in Shared Song Experience

Toronto Children's Choir, Canada • Young People's Chorus of New York City, USA • Male ENsemble, Philippines • Festival Choir

Friday • July 4 • 3:00 pm • AFTERNOON CONCERTS • \$25

12 Evergreen Theatre

- Richmond Singers, Canada
- Male ENsemble, Philippines
- Campanella Children's Choir, USA • Taipei Philharmonic Youth & Children's Choir, *Taiwan* | • Espiritu Vocal ENsemble, *Canada*
 - The Squares, Canada

14 Academy Hall

- Academy Chamber Choir, Canada
- Brooks Chamber Choir, Canada

Yavir Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton, Canada

King's College Kappella, New Zealand

13 Max Cameron Theatre

Young People's Chorus of New York City, USA

Friday • July 4 • 7:30 pm • AWARDS CONCERT • \$35

15 Great Hall Performances by choir and solo competition winners

Saturday • July 5 • 7:30 pm • GALA CLOSING CONCERT • \$35

16 Great Hall dat^aaymux" 2025 Children's & SSA Youth Choir • Choir of the World at dat^aaymux"

8-CONCERT Package • \$200

FOUR additional concerts of your choice from Included Concerts: **Gala Opening** & **Closing**, **Choral Showcase**, **Awards** Concert plus the afternoon and evening concerts lists.



Information accurate at time of printing • Program subject to change Academy Office: 7280 Kemano St, Powell River, BC V8A 1M2

ġaťθaymιxw (Kathaumixw) CHOIRS

Campanella Children's Choir • ILLINOIS, USA



Campanella Children's Choir, established in 2000, is the heart of Campanella Educational Center, fostering creativity and cultural understanding through choral singing. Emphasizing diversity, the choir performs in multiple languages and has earned accolades, including Gold Medals at the National Heritage Festival, performances on WFMT Classical radio, and at Carnegie Hall.

In 2023, Campanella won second place in the Children's and Chamber Choir categories at the International Choral Festival <u>Kathaumixw</u> in Canada, with two soloists securing first-place honors. They also performed at the American Choral Directors Association Fall Convention, reinforcing their reputation for excellence.

Marianna Kosaya, Campanella's Choir Director, was born in Kiev, Ukraine, and shaped by her experience with the renowned children's choir Shchedrik. She holds an M.A. in Music Education and Choir Conducting from Kiev State Pedagogical University. After immigrating to the U.S., she founded Campanella and transformed it into a competitive ensemble. As Artistic Director, she also maintains an active teaching and collaborative music career in Chicago. In 2023, she was appointed Children's Choir Repertory Chair for the Illinois American Choral Directors' Association, and in 2024, she was a guest conductor for the Elementary Chorus Festival at Olivet Nazarene University.

Campanella remains dedicated to inspiring young singers, celebrating cultural diversity, and fostering artistic excellence for future generations.

Coro Femenino Cantate • Heredia, Costa Rica



Cantate is one of the most recent and successful choral projects in Costa Rica. An important number of the singers are trained in Concordia Coral Children's Choir previously and have studied an instrument and read music. These abilities allow the ensemble to work at the highest level with challenging projects.

Josué Ramírez, is the founder and current conductor. He is a Costa Rican choral conductor, pianist, and international adjudicator whose performances have



taken him across around the world, earning top prizes in international choir competitions. As part of the professional piano duet "Dúo Appassionato," he has performed in the U.S. and Germany, making his Carnegie Hall debut in July 2024 after winning first prize in the Golden Classical Music Awards. A tenured professor at Universidad Nacional, he teaches choral conducting, leads the University Choir, and coordinates the Piano for Choral Conductors program. He also conducts Cantate Female Choir, serves as pianist for El Café Chorale, and assists with Coro Intermezzo at Instituto Costarricense Pro Música Coral. Holding multiple degrees in piano and choral conducting, including a Fulbright-Laspau-funded Master's from the University of Louisville, he is also an active choral arranger dedicated to preserving Costa Rican traditional music.



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Espiritu Vocal Ensemble • Langley, Canada



Espiritu Vocal Ensemble is a dynamic mixed adult choir, performing a vast and eclectic range of music from contemporary and jazz to classical, Canadian, and folk. Espiritu's technical skill and artistic versatility have earned them a devoted following, drawn to the choir's polished, engaging and memorable performances. For over 20 years this ensemble has been performing on the North Shore of Vancouver's Lower Mainland.

Artistic Director **Anita Comba** has led Espiritu since 2022, following 20 years as the dedicated accompanist. Under her leadership and with the phenomenal talents of Miri Lee at the piano, the ensemble is continually expanding its repertoire and deepening its connection with audiences in the wider community. Espiritu approaches music with dedication and joy, creating an environment where singers can challenge themselves, uplift one another, and share in the fun of making music together.

Anita finds deep meaning in the unity of voices through music. This drives her sense of purpose in music-making and community. A pianist, collaborator, coach, teacher, and arranger, she now focuses on choral directing and is director of two community choirs, Espiritu Vocal Ensemble and the Langley Community Chorus.

King's College Kappella • Auckland, New Zealand





Founded in 2024 and conducted by Steven Rapana and Rachel Alexander Sutherland, **Kappella** quickly established itself within King's College's choral tradition, winning multiple awards at this year's The Big Sing Regional and National Festivals, including the Audience Prize and a commendable program award for a mixed-voice choir in Auckland.



In 2024, they were invited as featured artists at the Musicworks Ensemble Festival

Aotearoa, where their 30-minute performance earned a platinum award. Known for excellence and connection with audiences, Kappella continues to showcase the talent and dedication of King's College students.

Rachel Alexander Sutherland holds a Master's in Classical Voice from the University of Auckland and has over 20 years of experience as a voice specialist and choral director.

Steven Rapana is a graduate of the University of Auckland in vocal performance and choral studies, Steven has arranged and composed music for many notable national choirs including the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir and the New Zealand Youth Choir.



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Komorni zbor MEGARON • LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA



The **Megaron Chamber Choir**, founded in 2003, has become a leading choral ensemble, recognized internationally for its rich sound and compelling interpretations. It has performed across Europe, North America, and at major festivals, regularly collaborating with renowned orchestras and conductors.

Notable performances include U.S. tours (2019, 2022), Bach projects with conductor **Gary Graden** (2020, 2025), and Slovenia's first baroque-orchestra performance of Handel's *Messiah* (2022). The choir has won top awards at competitions in Slovenia, Germany, and Spain, including first place at Marktoberdorf (2022) and third place at the Gallus International Competition (2023). The choir has recorded two albums (*Prišla je luč*, featuring Slovenian Christmas music, and *Ptičice pojo*, a collection of Slovenian folk song arrangements).

To mark its 20th anniversary, Megaron performed Schnittke's *Concerto for Choir* (2024) and received the prestigious Gallus Plaque for artistic excellence. It continues to push boundaries with ambitious projects, reinforcing its reputation as a premier choral ensemble.

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Kôr • Vancouver, Canada



Kôr is an auditioned, a cappella, mixed voice ensemble within the Gracenote Vancouver Choral Association. The organization strives to foster care, openness, and friendship among its members. Kôr performs works from many different genres and cultures, and in many different languages. Past season highlights include recording and performing with singer-songwriters Luke Wallace and Laura Reznek, collaborating with ensembles Corazon and Lalin, and touring BC's interior.

Laura Metcalfe and Danica Kell grew up singing in choirs. and credit their passion for choral music to Corazon and Korora, and the Surrey Children's Choir and Elektra, respectively. Both have careers and degrees in other fields, but when asked about what's important in their lives, they talk about choir.

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Richmond Singers • RICHMOND, CANADA



The **Richmond Singers**, a diverse community choir of 55 women, have shared their love of music in concert since 1971. They are active in Richmond's community life and have represented British Columbia at national and international festivals, including UNISONG in Ottawa, Festival 500 in Newfoundland, and the <u>Kathaumixw International Choral Festival</u>, where they will return this year. Under the direction of **Fabiana Katz**, with accompanist **Elizabeth Oh**, they rehearse weekly, focusing on vocal technique and musical excellence. Their Richmond Singers Ensemble, a smaller group of retired and active members, brings music to seniors in care and hosts an annual Christmas concert for the community.

Governed by an elected Board of Directors, the choir engages in fundraising, workshops, and community performances throughout the year. Their December concert is a holiday tradition, and they regularly participate in events like Richmond Culture Days and Songs in the Snow. This spring, they will be guest performers with the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir and at "Richmond Sings" before previewing their <u>Kathaumixw performance</u> at their spring concert. They look forward to returning to Powell River, connecting with choirs from around the world, and fostering future musical collaborations.



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The Squares • Port Coquitlam, Canada



Established in 2011, **The Squares** have a rotating membership of 12 to 20 singers, who sing at community events throughout the year as a quartet, and an award-winning chorus. The Squares have competed in local, regional and international Barbershop Harmony Society contests, and been featured on radio film and television.

The group is led by a music team, consisting of **Sean Huston**, Musical Director, **David Cotton**, Associate Director, **Jeremy Wong**, Assistant Director, and **Sam Dabrusin**, Arranger.

Sean Huston, has been singing barbershop harmony since his first Quartet 'The Shadows' in 1990. He plays saxophone in several ensembles, and sings in two big bands. The Squares is the third Barbershop Chorus he has directed. He is married to an award-winning barbershop singer, has three children and two grandchildren.





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Taipei Philharmonic Youth & Children's Choir • Taipei, Taiwan



Founded in 1989, the Taipei Philharmonic Youth & Children's Choir (TPYCC) was established with the mission of enhancing children's choral music standards and fostering cultural awareness. The choir specializes in performing sacred music from various periods, as well as folk and children's songs from Taiwan, China, and around the world. By providing professional music training in an engaging and joyful environment, TPYCC enables children to swiftly immerse themselves in choral singing, experiencing the beauty and joy of



music. The choir is also committed to public service, participating in various charitable events to promote a healthy, happy, and harmonious childhood through music education.

Xiang-yun Fu is a distinguished Taiwanese choral conductor with nearly 30 years of experience in choral music education. She serves as the permanent conductor of the Taipei Philharmonic Youth and Children's Choir and the Taipei Philharmonic Women's Choir, and the music director and conductor of the Harmonia Male Choir. She also conducts the NTUT Choir and is a full-time music teacher and choir conductor at Nanhu High School.

Yavir Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton • Edmonton, Canada



YAVIR Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton has pursued the objective of developing, promoting and fostering a greater appreciation of the traditions of Ukrainian male choral singing for more than 40 years. We recently celebrated our 40th anniversary with a gala concert in October 2024. All of our past conductors joined us on stage as well as an orchestra.

We have performed at many international events over our 40 year existence including EXPO '86 in Vancouver and the World Choir Games in Riga, Latvia in 2014. We have performed at many events in Alberta including several appearances with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the Calgary Civic Symphony and have sung the national anthems at the Edmonton Oilers hockey games.

We enjoy touring internationally and have performed in many countries including Ukraine three times, Australia, Poland, Austria, Spain and Portugal and in many major cities in Canada including the Bloor West Village Toronto Ukrainian Festival. Our choir is very active in the Ukrainian community in Alberta and performs regularly at local events. Every Christmas we host our Festive Mosaic, a celebration of Ukrainian carols as well as collaborating with other musical groups from the larger Edmonton community.

We consider ourselves a band of brothers and celebrate our Ukrainian heritage by keeping alive a number of historical Cossack songs. We are also a very social group and end each rehearsal with a social hour of snacks and refreshments.

YAVIR's artistic director is **Slava Morozov** and our accompanist is **Marta Babytska**. We are eager to participate in <u>Kathaumix</u> this year and look forward to visiting Powell River.

HOST CHOIRS

Chor Musica

Chor Musica is a male voice community choir comprised of 40 singers. Formed in 1998, the choir provides an opportunity for men to explore and perform a variety of music written for the male choir. In its short history the choir has become popular with audiences of all ages. In 2007, the choir performed at the 3rd International Male Voice Festival in Cornwall, England and in 2013 performed concerts in the Yucatan, Mexico.

The choir returned to England for the 2015 Cornwall International Male Voice Choral Festival, honoured to have been invited to sing in the opening ceremonies. More than 70 male choirs participate in this festival from across the world, the UK and Cornwall.

The choir is conducted by Walter Martella with the assistance of Dr. Moira Hopfe-Ostensen, piano.

Academy Singers

The **Academy Singers** began as an opportunity for advanced singers in the Academy Boys and Girls choirs to perform repertoire with orchestra and contemporary music not usually sung by young choirs. They have been guests at several important musical, cultural and political events including the 2014 "Celebration for Peace" as guest of the City of Hiroshima and UNESCO, the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations San Francisco, USA), Europa Cantat (Strasbourg), International Sympaati (Espoo, Finland) and the Golden Gate International Children's Choir Festival (USA.) The Academy Singers have been important ambassadors for Powell River. The choir performs under the direction of Walter Martella.

Academy Apprentice Choir

The **Academy Apprentice Choir** is for boys and girls in kindergarten, grade one, and grade two. It develops concepts of good vocal production, blend, diction, music reading and stage deportment. The choir performs in Carols by Candlelight, Music Festival, Spring Sing and Kathaumixw. Apprentice Choir provides ideal preparation for subsequent choirs such as Boys or Girls Choir, Suzuki Strings, voice and instrumental tuition.

Joanne Hansen's musical experience stems from piano lessons as a child. She completed her A.R.C.T. in Piano Performance in 1977. At the University of Victoria she received a B. Ed. in Elementary Education with a minor in Music Education. For 15 years she taught Music in the Powell River School District.

Academy Youth Choir

The **Academy Youth Choir** is a new program at the Academy for youth, aged 12-17 years. It is in its first year and serves as a continuation of the Academy Singers. This program explores modern popular choral repertoire. This will be their first qatioaymix (Kathaumixw) performance. The choir performs under the direction of Walter Martella.

Brooks Chamber Choir



The **Brooks Secondary Choir,** directed by **Paul Cummings,** is a wonderful, passionate, and hard-working group of students. This non-auditioned ensemble includes students from grades 8 to 12, fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. In 2024, the choir enjoyed a fabulous 10-day tour in Havana, Cuba, where they showcased their talents and embraced the rich musical culture. They are extremely excited and honored to be participating in the International Choral ἀatθaymux^w 2025. The Brooks Secondary Choir loves performing a variety of choral repertoire from around the world, continually inspiring audiences with their diverse and dynamic performances.

Paul Cummings, trombonist, vocalist, and choral director, received the BC Music Educators' 1995 Outstanding Music Educator Award. He holds degrees in Music and Education from the University of British Columbia and a Masters in Choral Conducting from Western Washington University. His vocal ensembles have performed at various international festivals, including Europa Cantat and America Cantat. Paul resurrected the BC Vocal Jazz Festival in 1996 and served as Artistic Director for three years. He has worked as a clinician and adjudicator in numerous festivals and music camps across the Pacific Northwest. Paul was the Artistic Director and Head of Jury at the International Choral Kathaumixw Festival from 2012-2016. He currently teaches at Brooks Secondary School. Paul was the 2024 recipient of the BC Choral Federation's Willan Award. His latest project, Townsite Jazz Festival, takes place in Powell River's historic district.

Powell River Chorus



In 1955, the Ethel Eason Singers, directed by school teacher Virginia Farmer, and a few teachers and students led by Lyle Henderson joined their voices and named themselves the Powell River Choral Society. In 2014 the now named **Powell River Chorus** boasts 80 members. The choir remains a non-auditioned community choir and regularly competes in local music festivals, presents two concerts annually, and performs at numerous hospitals, seniors' centers and civic functions throughout Powell River. The choir has sung for royalty, at Expo '86 as 'core choir' for the opening ceremonies and recorded 3 successive radio broadcasts over CBC's "Parade of Choirs." The repertoire is varied and the Chorus boasts one of the largest collections of choral music in BC. The Chorus is pleased to have **Walter Martella** as its conductor for over 20 years and **Dr. Moira Hopfe-Ostensen** as our piano accompanist since 2021.



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