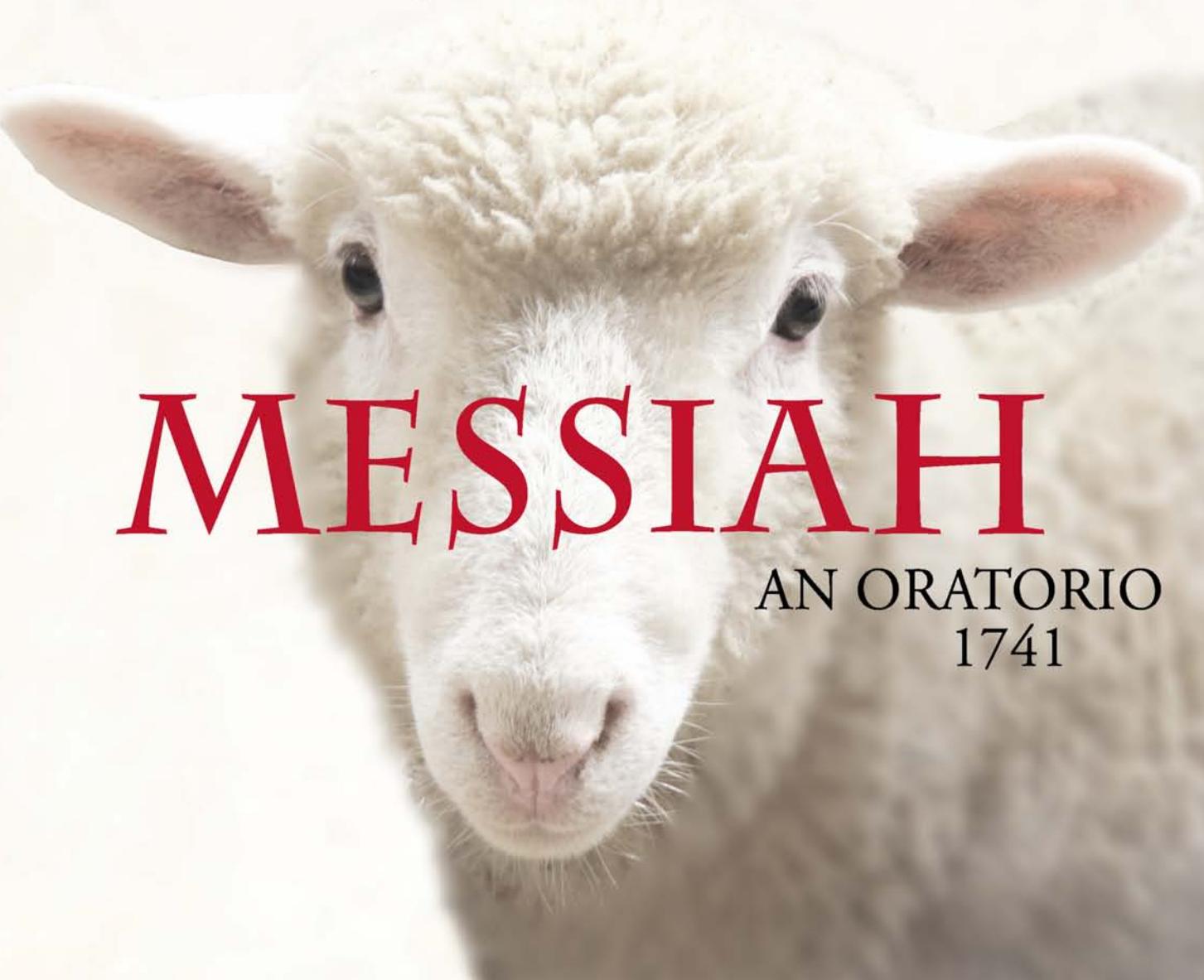




presents

George Frideric Handel

Eric Milnes, Director



# MESSIAH

AN ORATORIO  
1741

SUNDAY, DEC. 14, 2025 at 4:00 & 7:30 pm

COLLEGE STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
265 College Street, Burlington, Vermont

SUNDAY, DEC. 21, 2025 at 4:00 pm

HOLY ANGELS CHURCH  
246 Lake Street, St. Albans City, Vermont



# *The Artists*

## **SOLOISTS**

Len Torrie, *soprano*      Shane Hanson, *countertenor* (Burlington)      Nicholas Burns, *countertenor* (St. Albans)  
Philippe Gagné, *tenor*      William Kraushaar, *bass*

## **THE VERMONT CHORAL UNION**

Eric Milnes, Director      Cole Marino, Assistant Director

### *Sopranos*

Colleen Flynn Campbell, Karen Chickering, Bridget Zurn Garibay, Jodie Johnson, Laura Labrie  
Kiera Manion-Fischer, Cathy Stadecker, Kayla Tornello, Lindsay Warner, Claire Whitehouse, Deborah Wright

### *Altos*

Emma Clayton, Grace Crowe, Amy Dandurand, Camron Dickinson  
Carolyn Dickinson, Carol Hassler, Shalini Hewage, Sofia Hirsch, Mary Ellen Jolley, Dylan Levene  
Kristen Lindberg, Tara Purasson, Lisa Raatikainen, Charlotte Reed, Halina Vercessi, Katherine Wayman

### *Tenors*

Mark Bleeke, Lucas Bull, Laurence Dean, Addison Graves, Frank Hassler, Miles Jackson  
Dave Jangrow, Paul Lowe, Steven Marchand, Mark Pennington, Maarten van Ryckevorsel, Andy Warner

### *Basses*

Jim Bentlage, Joseph Comeau, Jasper Donnelly, Adam Grundt, Nicholas Hardin, Brian Irwin, Matt Johnson  
Michael Lambert, Cole Marino, Philip Pezeshki, Benjamin Slattery, David Toborg, Theo Wells-Spackman, Stuart Williams

## **ENSEMBLE L'HARMONIE *des SAISONS***

Mélisande Corriveau, *Artistic Director*      Eric Milnes, *Musical Director*

Paulina Francisco, Maude Frechette-Gagné, Sasha Koukarina, Ashley Krysinski, *sopranos*

Adam Wills Begley, Rosalie Lane Lépine, Hannah Milnes, *altos*

Aldéo Jean, Ryan Matos, *tenors*

Tevan Goldberg, Noah Gabriel, *basses*

*1st Violins:* Julia Wedman, Jimin Dobson, Nadia Lesinska, Marie Nadeau-Tremblay

*2nd Violins:* Jessy Dubé, Patricia Ahern, Cristina Prats-Costa

*Violas:* Hélène Plouffe & Isabelle Douaillay-Backman

*Violoncellos:* Mélisande Corriveau & Jessica Korotkin

*Violone:* Pierre Cartier

*Oboes:* Matthew Jennejohn & Karim Nasr

*Bassoons:* Ellis Montes & Aaron Goler

*Trumpets:* Jared Wallis & Loïc Lapatrie

*Timpani:* Matthias Soly

*Harpsichord:* Eric Milnes

# MESSIAH, AN ORATORIO

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

*Our excerpts are presented without interruption, with the exception of two short tuning intervals.*

*Due to the solemnity of the program, kindly withhold any applause until its conclusion. We Thank You.*

Symphony

Recitative: *Comfort ye, my people* Mr. Gagné

Aria: *Every valley shall be exalted*

Chorus: *And the glory of the Lord*

Recitative: *Thus saith the Lord* Mr. Kraushaar

Aria: *But who may abide*

Chorus: *And he shall purify*

Recitative: *Behold, a virgin shall conceive* Mr. Hanson/Mr. Burns

Aria & Chorus: *O thou that tellest good tidings*

Recitative: *For behold, darkness shall cover the earth* Mr. Kraushaar

Aria: *The people that walked in darkness*

Chorus: *For unto us a child is born*

Pifa: *Pastoral Symphony*

Recitative: *There were shepherds abiding in the field* Mx. Torrie

Aria: *But lo, the angel of the Lord*

Recitative: *And the angel of the Lord said unto them*

Recitative: *And suddenly there was with the angel*

Chorus: *Glory to God*

Aria: *Rejoice, greatly*

Recitative: *Then shall the eyes of the blind* Mr. Hanson/Mr. Burns

Duet: *He shall feed His flock - Come unto Him* Mx. Torrie

Chorus: *His yoke is easy and his burden is light*

Chorus: *Lift up your heads*

Aria: *How beautiful are the feet* Mr. Gagné

Chorus: *Halleluya!*

Aria: *I know that my redeemer liveth* Mx. Torrie

Chorus: *Since by man came death*

Recitative: *Behold, I tell you a mystery* Mr. Kraushaar

Aria: *The trumpet shall sound*

Recitative: *Then shall be brought to pass* Mr. Hanson/Mr. Burns

Duet & Chorus: *But thanks be to God* Mr. Gagné

Chorus: *Worthy is the Lamb - Amen.*

The Vermont  
**CHORAL UNION**

Greetings from VCU President Jim Bentlage,



On behalf of the Board of Directors, the chorus, and the many dedicated volunteers who make our work possible, I am delighted to welcome you to The Vermont Choral Union's performances of Handel's *Messiah*. It has been an absolute thrill to collaborate with our esteemed Music Director, Eric Milnes, and the world-renowned vocal and instrumental ensemble *L'Harmonie des saisons* on this remarkable musical journey. None of this would be possible without your enthusiastic support. Your presence here means the world to us.

Thank you, and we hope you enjoy the performance.

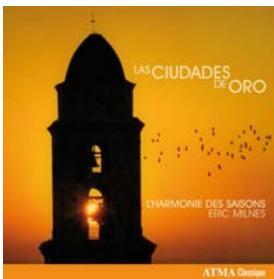
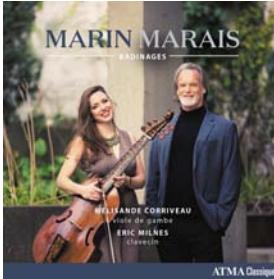
\* \* \* \* \*

The Vermont Choral Union draws inspiration from more than ten centuries of classical vocal ensemble music. Sharing a passion for artistic and musical development, our singers strive to delight audiences with programs that portray the rich and diverse history of choral singing. Originally called The University of Vermont Choral Union, the ensemble was founded in 1967 by James G. Chapman, Professor of Music at UVM. Dr. Chapman (1927-2011) directed the choir until his retirement in 2004, after which the group's name changed to The Vermont Choral Union. Gary Moreau succeeded Dr. Chapman as director through 2010. Carol Reichard served as guest conductor in spring 2011, and the group welcomed Jeff Rehbach as director in fall 2011. When Jeff retired, Lisa Jablow became director in the fall of 2018, followed by interim director Steven Klimowski in the fall of 2019. In 2022 the Choral Union named Eric Milnes as its newest director. He is committed to a choral repertoire featuring masterworks of the classical canon, as well as programming which features collaborations with instrumentalists of distinction, particularly in historically informed performance style presented with period instruments. His career has been centered on the nurturing and training of all collaborators to be more fluent in their technical musical skills and more dynamic in their artistic expression.





*Ensemble vocal et orchestre sur instruments d'époque*  
Mélisande Corriveau & Eric Milnes, directeurs



Two-time JUNO Award-winning Ensemble *L'Harmonie des saisons*, Montreal's vocal and period-instrument ensemble, is dedicated through the expertise of its members to re-introducing audiences to the grand masterpieces of historical sacred music through its resident series of events. Based in the heart of the Eastern Townships region, the ensemble's members perform frequently across Canada, the United States, South America, Asia, and Europe. Their growing discography on the ATMA Classique label (six CD releases so far) have been awarded Juno and Opus prizes and garnered numerous international critically acclaimed reviews in publications such as Fanfare, Gramophone, and La Scena. Each of their recordings has been described by CBC/Radio-Canada as among the most distinguished recordings produced in Canada. Apple Music named their *Marin Marais : Badinages* recording an international classical selection of the year, with more than 1.5 million downloads from their platform. The album *Solfeggio* won the 2022 Juno Award; their debut album *Cities of Gold* won the 2016 Juno. Most recent releases include *Concerti of Bach*, and they will soon release *Concerti of Vivaldi*. In recent seasons the Ensemble offers its performances on regional tours, collaborating with presenters who are passionate about sharing wonderful performances of this repertoire. This season, the ensemble has been presented by the Montreal Bach Festival in performance of Bach's *Magnificat* & *Concerti*, by ATMA Classique in a tour of Handel's *Messiah*, by Music and Beyond in Ottawa as part of their tour of Bach's *St. John Passion*, and by the Arte Musica Foundation of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, participating in their complete cycle of Cantatas by J.S. Bach. Their Monteverdi Vespers was presented on The Montreal Symphony's summer festival. The directors of the Ensemble have been invited as guest artists at New York's Carnegie Hall (with The Orchestra of St. Luke's) and Montreal's Symphonic Hall (with the Montreal Symphony) in performances of Bach's St. Matthew Passion. *L'Harmonie des saisons* records exclusively for ATMA Classique, and its many activities are supported by The Canada Council for the Arts and The Quebec Council for Arts & Letters. *L'Harmonie des saisons* has collaborated with the Vermont Choral Union in performances of Handel's *Messiah* and Faure's *Requiem*, with the College Street Congregational Church choir in numerous performances, and are the artists-in-residence of the Burlington Baroque Festival, which presented 10 performances in 2024 - 2025.

*For further information about our activities:*  
[www.harmoniedessaisons.org](http://www.harmoniedessaisons.org)



Conseil des arts  
et des lettres





Conductor, harpsichordist and organist **Eric Milnes** has received critical acclaim for performances across North America, South America, Europe and Asia, appearing at festivals such as The Mostly Mozart Festival, New York, The Boston Early Music Festival, The Berkeley Bach Festival, The Santa Fe Festival, The Montreal Bach Festival, The Regensburg Festival (Germany), The Bremen Festival (Germany), The Passau Festival (Austria), The Utrecht Festival (The Netherlands), The Bruges Festival (Belgium), The Lufthansa Festival (London), The Bergen Festival (Norway), The Baroque Festival of Bolivia, and at celebrated venues such as Carnegie Hall (NY), Lincoln Center (NY), Symphony Hall (Montreal), Jordan Hall (Boston), The Glenn Gould Theatre (Toronto), Salle Gaveau (Paris) and Die Alte Oper Frankfurt. He has directed The New York Collegium, New York Baroque, Montreal Baroque, The Seattle Baroque Orchestra, The Portland Baroque Orchestra, Trinity Consort, Les Boreades de Montreal, The St. Lawrence Choir and The Philharmonic Orchestra of

Santiago, Chile in performances of music spanning five centuries. Mr. Milnes' discography of over sixty CD releases includes recipients of two Juno Awards (Canada's Grammy) for CD of the Year in 2016 and 2022, two Opus Prizes for CD of the Year, and awards from The Diapason (France), Toccata Magazine (Germany) and Gramophone Magazine (Great Britain). In 2020 Apple Music named a recent release CD of the Month - it topped one million downloads. Milnes is also an award winning recording producer and a published composer. His degrees are from Columbia University and The Juilliard School. A new-comer to Burlington, he is Director of Music at College Street Congregational Church. He takes greatest pride in the accomplishments of his two daughters, Mary Leah, an analyst for the U. S. Department of Defense, and Hannah, a project manager with NASA.



A specialist in early-music performance, multi instrumentalist **Mélisande Corriveau** has been praised for her exceptional musical mastery. She is frequently a guest at major festivals across North America, South America, Asia and Europe, and is an active concert, touring, and recording artist. She regularly performs with a number of celebrated ensembles, and is a member of the ensembles Masques (France), Les Voix humaines, Sonate 1704, and Les Boréades de Montréal. Her discography comprises some 50 titles on the ATMA Classique, Analekta, Harmonia Mundi, Paradiso, and Alpha labels. Her two recent discs with harpsichordist Eric Milnes on the ATMA Classique label *Pardessus de viole* and *Marin Marais : Badinages* both won Opus prizes for early-music CD of the year. CBC Radio listed the latter two recordings, and the duo's most recent release, *BACH au Pardessus de viole*, among the best discs of the year (in 2016, 2020, and 2022 respectively). *Pardessus de viole* was named classical disc of the year by ICI Radio-Canada in 2016, while *Marin Marais : Badinages* was named "a

classical album you must hear this month" by Apple Music in 2020. Recent appearances include as gamba soloist with The St. Luke's Orchestra at New York's Carnegie Hall, with the Montreal Symphony in Bach's St Matthew Passion, and on tour with Jordi Savall. Mélisande Corriveau and her partner Eric Milnes co-direct the vocal and instrumental ensemble L'Harmonie des saisons, which they founded in 2010. In 2014, Mélisande completed, with honors, a doctorate in pardessus de viole performance at the Université de Montréal. She has become one of the world's few specialists on this instrument.



**Len Torrie** is a Montréal-based soprano, singer-songwriter, and performance curator known for their crystalline tone, expressive versatility, and storytelling depth. A sought-after soloist, Len performs regularly with leading early music ensembles including L'Harmonie des Saisons, Studio de Musique Ancienne de Montréal, and Ensemble Caprice. Len holds a master's degree in early music vocal performance from McGill University, where they studied under Suzie LeBlanc and Dominique Labelle. Internationally, Len has trained with the Accademia Europea dell'Opera and the Internationale Bachakademie Stuttgart. They are one third of the medieval trio COMTESSA, where they sing and play citole and Anglo-Saxon lyre. A queer, non-binary artist, Len draws on the wisdom of queer elders and ancestors in their research and performance of radically inclusive stories. Their work bridges early music and contemporary folk, with a growing focus on self-accompaniment on period and modern instruments. Len has appeared as soloist in numerous Vermont Choral Union performances, including Handel's Messiah, Faure's Requiem, Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb, and Schubert's *Shepherd on the Rock*.



Canadian tenor/counter tenor **Shane Hanson** has performed with the Theatre of Early Music, Vancouver Bach Choir, Okanagan Symphony, UBC Opera Ensemble, Kamloops Symphony, Against the Grain Theatre, Chilliwack Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Early Music Vancouver, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, Note Bene Baroque Ensemble and *L'Harmonie des saisons*. Most recent engagements include a St. John Passion with *L'Harmonie des saisons* directed by Eric Milnes, and a solo cantata concert with Note Bene directed by Howard Dyck. Although he has mostly performed concert works, he is also very accomplished on the operatic stage. Notable roles include Britten's Oberon, Handel's Giulio Cesare, and Gluck's Orfeo. When off the stage, Shane enjoys discovering late eighteenth century opera arias and creating piano reductions of them to then record or perform. His most notable collection of reductions includes select alto arias of Anfossi, Jomelli, and Myslivecek. Shane holds a bachelor's degree in opera performance from the University of British Columbia. Through the guidance of Nancy Hermiston, Dale Throness, and Daniel Taylor, Shane continues to master his craft and find a deep passion for all forms of music.

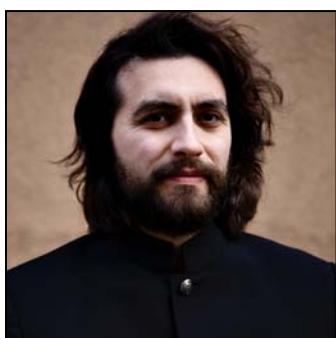


Born in Vancouver, British Columbia, countertenor **Nicholas Burns** has been described as possessing an "exciting voice" and Opera Canada calls him a "revelation." As an artist in the Britten-Pears Young Artist Program, Nicholas performed Bach cantatas under the direction of Philippe Herreweghe. He has performed with the American Bach Soloists Ensemble in Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* and Monteverdi's *Vespers*. Nicholas has also performed with Arion Baroque Orchestra, Tafelmusik, Early Music Vancouver, The Theater of Early Music, Studio de Musique Ancien de Montréal, Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra, L'Harmonie des saisons and Orchestre symphonique de Longueuil. Upcoming engagements include performances at New York's Carnegie Hall, a US tour of Handel's opera *Partenope* with Les Arts Florissants, Bach cantatas at Bach Fest Leipzig and the world premiere of a new opera, *L'Orangerie*. His many performances with Eric Milnes include four Handel Messiah tours, Handel's *Acis & Galatea*, Bach's *Magnificat*, Bach's *St. John Passion*, Music from Versailles, and Bach Cantatas at

Montreal's Museum of Fine Arts. As well as singing, Nicholas is an accomplished bagpiper, having won the World Bagpipe Championships in 2012. In recent seasons he has appeared as soloist with The College Street Choir in *Messiah*, and in Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* with The Vermont Choral Union.



Tenor **Philippe Gagné** is acclaimed for his rich expressiveness, refined musical sensitivity, rare vocal agility, and beauty of tone. Born in Québec City and based in Montréal, he specializes in the baroque repertoire, and has performed at many of the world's great venues working with many internationally renowned ensembles such as Les Talens Lyriques, Tafelmusik, Les Violons du Roy, Arion Orchestre Baroque, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, L'Orchestre symphonique de Québec, Les Délices, Les Boréades, Blue Heron, L'Harmonie des saisons, Ensemble Caprice, Le Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal, Ex Tempore, La Bande Montréal Baroque, Clavecin en concert, MannheimerHofkapelle et Apotheosis Orchestra. He is recognized particularly as an exceptional interpreter of the French Baroque repertoire, as well as of the music of J. S. Bach, which occupy more than half of his professional engagements. He has been a featured soloist with *L'Harmonie des saisons* since the group's founding in 2010, including many performances of *Messiah*, Bach's *St. John Passion*, *Magnificat* and numerous Bach Cantatas, Handel's *Acis & Galatea*, and dozens of performances of 17th & 18th century French and German sacred programs. He appears on *L'Harmonie des saisons* Juno Award-winning CD *Cities of Gold*, and with Burlington Baroque in performances of Monteverdi's *Vespers*, Handel's *Acis & Galatea*, and Bach's *St. John Passion*.



Born and raised in Montréal, bass **William Kraushaar** is a classically-trained composer and self-taught singer, with a strong devotion to vocal music. He is a frequent soloist with such renowned ensembles as *L'Harmonie des saisons*, Ensemble Caprice, The Studio de Musique Ancienne de Montréal (SMAM) The Theatre of Early Music, The Choir of St. Andrew & St. Paul, as well as a member of Montréal's finest professional choirs. As a composer, his work as a film composer was twice awarded by the SOCAN Foundation, and his works have been performed by, among others, The Quebec Symphony, Voces Borealis, L'Ensemble Vocal Art-Quebec, The National Youth Choir of Canada, Music at St. Andrew & St. Paul, and Ensemble *L'Harmonie des saisons*. He has been featured with *L'Harmonie des saisons* as soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *St. John Passion* & *Magnificat*, Biber's *Requiem*, and numerous French Baroque cantatas and motets, and with Burlington Baroque in performances of Handel's *Acis & Galatea*, Monteverdi *Vespers*, Charpentier's *Te deum*, and Purcell's *Welcome to all the Pleasures*.



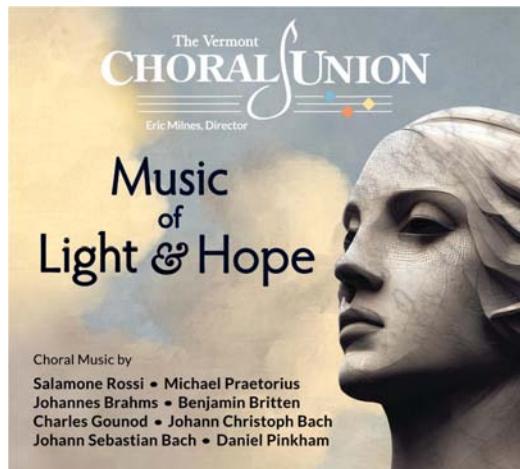
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3. Es ist ein' Ros' (*Lo, how a rose*)
4. Adon olam (*Lord of the world*)
5. Bor'chu (*Bless the Lord*)
6. Qadish (*Magnified be God's name*)
7. Es ist nun aus (*Now my life is ended*)
8. Der Mensch, vom Weib geboren (*Man that is born of woman*)
9. Matins Responsory for Advent
10. How Lovely Are the Messengers
11. Magnificat (*The Song of Mary*)
12. Ich lasse dich nicht (*I will not let you go*)
13. Geistliches Lied (*Let nothing ever grieve thee*)
14. Rejoice in the Lamb

Daniel Pinkham (1923 – 2006)  
Anonymous (14<sup>th</sup> century)  
Michael Praetorius (1571 – 1621)  
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Johann Christoph Bach (1642 – 1703)  
Eric Milnes (b. 1959)  
Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)  
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Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)  
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Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)



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Amy Heneveld, Laura Labrie, Ann Larson, Alison Love  
Kiera Manion-Fischer, Cathy Stadecker, Kayla Tornello  
Claire Whitehouse, Deborah Wright

### *Altos*

Celia Asbell, Clara Cavitt  
Karen Chickering, Amy Dandurand  
Michele Grimm, Mary Ellen Jolley, Terry Lawrence  
Dylan Levene, Charlotte Reed

### *Tenors*

Lucas Bull, Lawrence Dean, Frank Hessler  
Mark Kuprych, Robert Liotard  
Maarten van Ryckevorsel, George Salmons  
Andy Warner, Matt Van Wagner

### *Basses*

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Bernard Holland, THE NEW YORK TIMES



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-St. Theresa of Avila

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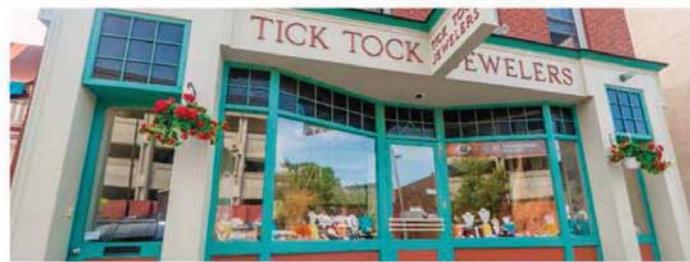
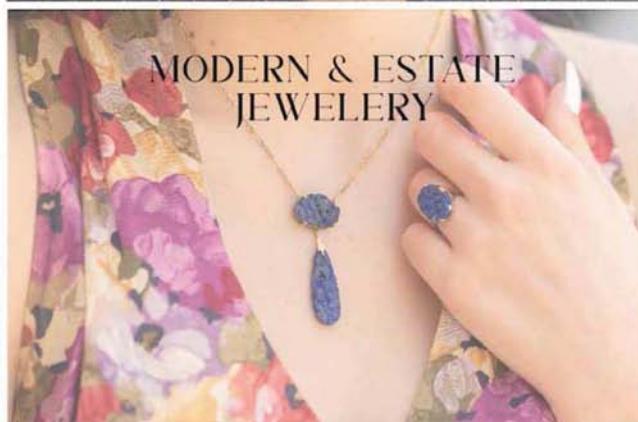


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## Best Wishes to the Vermont Choral Union, and L'Harmonie des saisons!



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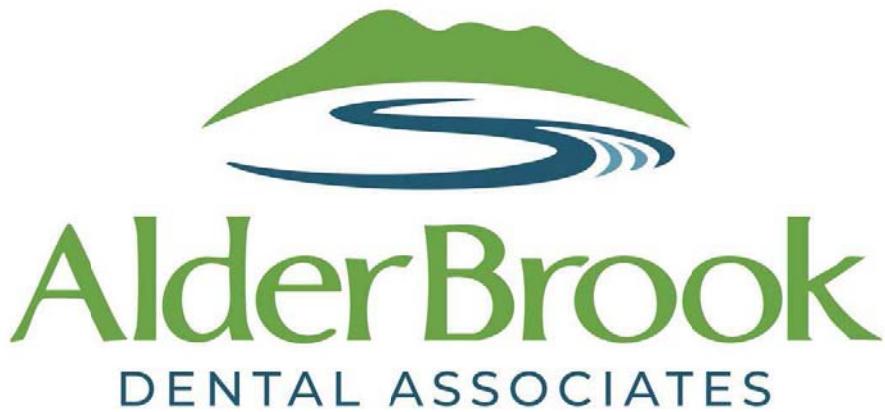
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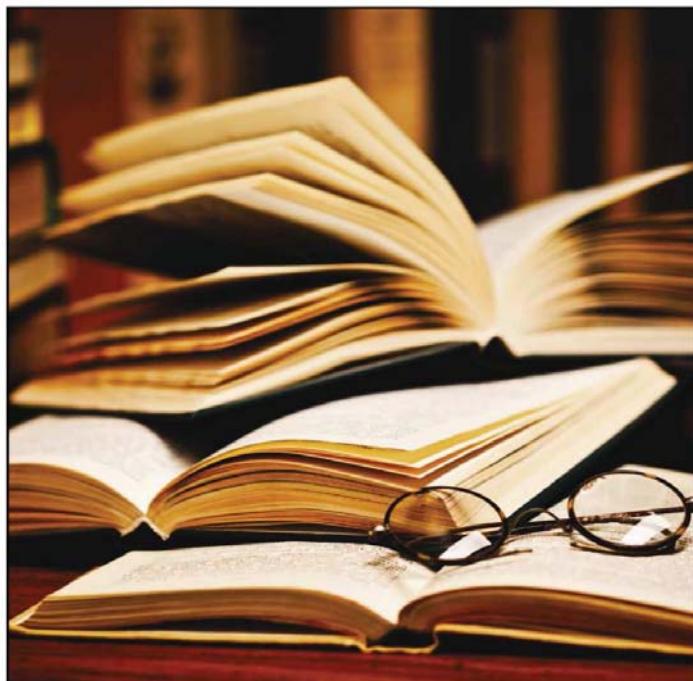
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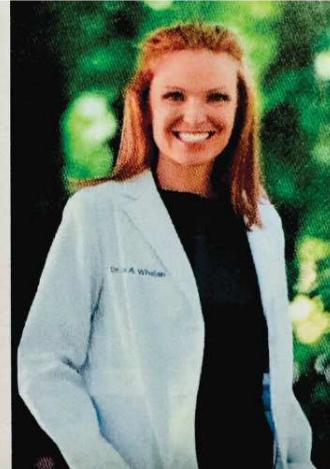
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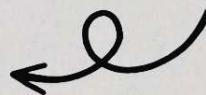


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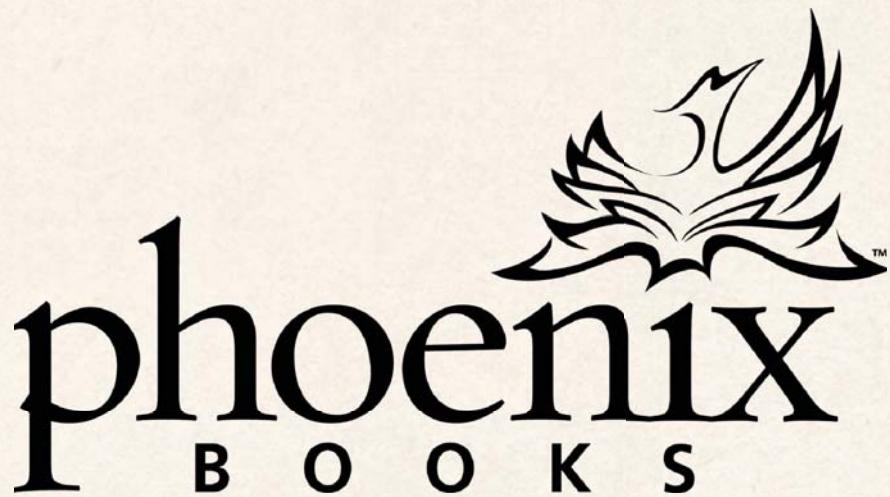
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