



60 Simcoe Street, Toronto Canada M5J 2H5
416-598-0422 | fax 416-598-2992

www.tmchoir.org

Toronto Mendelssohn Choir's 115th Anniversary Season Powerful, Passionate and Personal

Powerfully human choral masterworks are at the heart of the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir's grand symphonic sound. The 2008-09 season highlights this TMC trademark: the 115th season connects people with the profound, timeless and transformative sound of the human voice *en masse*. Information and tickets for Toronto Mendelssohn Choir performances are available by calling 416-598-0422 and at www.tmchoir.org.

The 2008-09 season launches with **A Man Divine**, a contemporary secular cantata, *Dona nobis pacem*, by R. Vaughan Williams, juxtaposed with a deeply moving human requiem, *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, by Johannes Brahms. Noel Edison will conduct soloists soprano Cindy Koistinen and baritone Peter Barrett, along with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and the Festival Orchestra. The concert title comes from text in the war-lamenting poetry of Walt Whitman that Vaughan Williams used to set *Dona nobis pacem*. The line reads "for my enemy is dead, a man divine as myself is dead." A Man Divine will be performed the weekend before Remembrance Day, on Friday, November 7, 2008, at 8:00 p.m. at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church. A Pre-Concert Chat starts at 7:15p.m.

The annual **Festival of Carols** is where friends and family gather together to celebrate the season and create new memories. Everyone is encouraged to sing festive favourites along with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir. Audiences will be treated to narration and conducting by Noel Edison, Michael Bloss performing on organ, along with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, the Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir, and the Festival Brass. Festival of Carols will take place on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church.

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Noel Edison conducts this year's Messiah! Each year at **Toronto's Favourite Messiah**, Torontonians are treated to the massive vocal splendor of Handel's Messiah as the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir teams up with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. This year as Noel Edison will conduct soprano Gillian Keith, mezzo-soprano Allyson McHardy, tenor Frédéric Antoun, bass Robert Gleadow, with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Toronto's Favourite Messiah is at Roy Thomson Hall December 16-21, at 8:00 p.m.

The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir invites audience members to raise their voices and sing along, at **Raised in Song** on February 1. Raised in Song is a casual afternoon of popular choral music and favourite hymns, with the witty narration of Giles Bryant, the celebrated voices of TMC choristers, and the magnificent flair of William Maddox at the organ. Raised in Song takes place Sunday, February 1, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church.

At **Sacred Music for a Sacred Space**, the TMC's grand symphonic sound envelops body and soul in the rich acoustics of St. Paul's Basilica. Noel Edison conducts the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and the Festival Winds & Brass in an intensely moving concert of Anton Bruckner's *Motets* and *Mass No. 2 in E minor*. Sacred Music for a Sacred Space will take place at St. Paul's Basilica on Good Friday, April 10, 2009. A Pre-Concert Chat is at 6:45p.m. and the concert is at 7:30 p.m. Sacred Music for a Sacred Space has sold out every year!

Passion Has a Voice! An Anniversary Celebration celebrates the TMC's 115th season and the 200th anniversary of Mendelssohn's birth. Noel Edison conducts the passionate, dramatic, and operatic Elijah, with bass-baritone Nathan Berg in the title role, soprano Joni Henson, mezzo-soprano Marcia Whitehead, with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, the Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir, and the Festival Orchestra. Passion Has a Voice! An Anniversary Celebration is the season finale performance, happening at Massey Hall on Saturday, May 9, 2009 8:00 pm. A Pre-Concert Chat will start at 7:15p.m.

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The shining young voices of the Toronto Mendelssohn *Youth* Choir (TMYC) perform a **Season of Light** on Saturday, December 6, where Lynn Janes conducts the Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir and James Bourne on piano, in a radiant multi-cultural celebration of light, hope, and music. On Saturday, February 28, the TMYC will be joined by Arts York Strings to perform **North Meets South**, where Canadian pieces by Ruth Watson Henderson, Stephen Hatfield, and Imant Raminsh are paired with works by American masters Aaron Copland, Samuel Barber, and Eric Whitacre. All TMYC performances take place at Calvin Presbyterian Church.

Toronto Mendelssohn Choir Subscription Packages start at \$70, and single tickets range from \$30 to \$78. Tickets and subscriptions are available by telephone at **416-598-0422** or online at www.tmchoir.org.

The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir is generously supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, The Ontario Arts Council, the Toronto Arts Council, and a dedicated group of individual and corporate donors.

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