



THE DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC **presents**

University of Alberta
Concert Choir
**An Hour
to Dance**

Friday, December 2, 2022
7:30pm | Convocation Hall

The human voice is an extraordinary thing: it is capable of so many colours of sound, so many changing moods. Tonight's program presents music that celebrates the versatility of the vocal instrument, with music that ranges from the operatic (Britten's *Choral Dances*) to the jazzy (Jaspere's *VoiceDance*), to the "instrumental" (Schafer's *Gamelan*), to an introspective soundscape (Walker's *An Hour to Dance*).

To that end, tonight's concert also celebrates the variety of the human experience and the meanings we give to our brief time on this planet. Though each piece represents a dance in some way, this music really explores the nature of time, and the role it plays in our lives.



The University of Alberta Concert Choir is excited to present *An Hour to Dance*: music that celebrates the voice, what it means to sing, and what it means to be human.

University of Alberta Concert Choir

December 2, 2022 | 7:30 PM | Convocation Hall
Dr. Adam Robertson | conductor

Choral Dances from *Gloriana* **Benjamin Britten** (1913–1976)

1. Time
 2. Concord
 3. Time and Concord
 4. Country Girls
 5. Rustics and Fishermen
 6. Final Dance of Homage
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Jing-ga-lye-ya **Bruce Sled** (b. 1975)

Gamelan **R. Murray Schafer** (1933–2021)

VoiceDance **Greg Jasperse** (b. 1968)

An Hour to Dance **Gwyneth Walker** (b. 1947)

1. Key Ring
2. Summary by the Pawns
3. April Lovers
4. An Hour to Dance
5. Slow Scythe
6. White Darkness

Olivia Mitchell | alto
Shawn Grenke | piano

TIME

Yes, he is Time,
Lusty and blithe!
Time is at his apogee!

Although you thought to see
A bearded ancient with a scythe.

No reaper he
That cries 'Take heed!'
Time is at his apogee!

Young and strong in his prime!
Behold the sower of the seed!

CONCORD

Concord is here
Our days to bless
And this our land to endure
With plenty, peace and happiness.

Concord and Time
Each needeth each:
The ripest fruit hangs where
Not one, but only two, only two can reach.

TIME AND CONCORD

From springs of bounty,
Through this county,
Streams abundant
Of thanks shall flow.

Where life was scanty,
Fruits of plenty
Swell resplendent
From earth below!

No Greek nor Roman
Queenly woman
Knew such favour
From Heav'n above
As she whose presence
Is our pleasance
Gloriana
Hath all our love!

COUNTRY GIRLS

Sweet flag and cuckoo flower,
Cowslip and columbine,
Kingcups and sops-in-wine,
Flower-de-luce and calaminth,
Harebell and hyacinth,
Myrtle and bay and rosemary between,
Norfolk's own garlands for her Queen.

RUSTICS AND FISHERMEN

From fen and meadow
In rushy baskets
They bring ensamples of all they grow.

In earthen dishes
Their deep-sea fishes;
Yearly fleeces,
Woven blankets;

New cream and junkets,
And rustic trinkets,
On wicker flaskets,
Their country largess
The best they know.

FINAL DANCE OF HOMAGE

These tokens of our love receiving
O take them, Princess great and dear.
From Norwich city you are leaving,
That you afar may feel us near.

JING-GA-LYE-YA

[vocalise]

GAMELAN

Dong
Deng
Dung
Dang
Ding

VOICEDANCE

[vocalise]

KEY RING

When my grandfather was very old
to one small room confined
he gave me his big bunch of keys to hold.

I asked, "Do they unlock every door there is?
And what would I find inside?"

He answered, "Mysteries and more mysteries.
You can't tell till you've tried."

Then as I swung the heavy ring around
the keys made a chuckling sound.

SUMMARY BY THE PAWNS

First the black square, then a white,
Moved by something out of sight,

We are started with a bound,
Knights and castles all around
Kings and queens and bishops holy!

After that we go more slowly,
While around us with free gaits
Move the taller potentates.

Still we pawns look straight ahead.

To encourage us it's said
That pawns who reach the utmost square
Are as good as monarchs there.

Meanwhile pawns, if need be, can
By slanted ways remove a man;

But frequently, before we know
What has got us, off we go!

THE APRIL LOVERS

Green is happening.
Through the sweet expectant chill
Of a northern spring
We have gone without will,

Without, fear, without reason,
Trusting to the power
Of a fickle season,
Of a passionate hour,

To mature, to sustain
Till the plan uncovers
In the sun and rain
Early lovers

Never question much
What is quietly beating
Through the music and the touch
And the mouths meeting.

AN HOUR TO DANCE

For a while we whirled
over the meadow of music
our sadness put away in purses
stuffed into old shoes or shawls

the children we never were
from cellars and closets
attics and faded snapshots
came out to leap for love
on the edge of an ocean of tears
like a royal flotilla
Alicia's menagerie swam by
no tale is endless
the rabbit opened his watch
muttering late, late
time to grow
old

SLOW SCYTHE

Slow scythe curving over the flowers
In yesterday's field where you mow,
My cool feet flicked
The dew from the daisies, hours,
Hours ago! Ages and ages ago
They flicked the dew
From the yellow and snow-colored flowers
you leisurely mow.

WHITE DARKNESS

Whether this is time or snow, passing
Through the night, earthward,
Who can tell—
Each particle only an illusion; yet massing,
Mounting over all,
Hushing the footfall,
Silencing the bell.

"I am confused,"
Said the traveler, "hearing no sound
Though my feet touch the ground
As they are used."

Soft as a shadow on fur
The filling places
Where his footsteps were;
Lost without shape or grime
His path through the level spaces.
How can we certainly know
If this is time
Falling, or snow?

Take My Hand, Anna K.

My mother wept in church, Episcopalian;
Over her far-off town the sun shone bright.
Her New York City child, I felt an alien.
Coming to a crossing the train cried in the night.

My only home is in the poems I write
Who now am exiled by my failing sight.
Words vanish like a flock of birds in flight.
Coming to a crossing the train cries in the night.

Here end my tracks of passion, reason, rhyme
Before the terminal rush and roar of light,
All go together under the wheels of Time.
Coming to a crossing the train cries in the night.

Dr. Adam Robertson | conductor

A native of Burnaby, British Columbia, Adam is active throughout Alberta as a conductor, choral and vocal clinician, adjudicator, and teacher. He holds a BMus in vocal performance from the University of Lethbridge, and two degrees (MMus, DMus) in choral conducting from the University of Alberta. Since moving to Edmonton, Adam has directed several ensembles including the Sherwood Park Festival Singers, Da Camera Singers, and Edmonton Children's Choir. He is currently the director of two choirs at the University: the University of Alberta Concert Choir and the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus, the longest-standing non-athletic club on campus.

In 2019 Adam founded All Points West, a chamber vocal ensemble whose goal is to promote musical inclusivity through programs that fuse traditional choral repertoire with popular music. Though primarily a conductor, Adam remains active as a vocalist and maintains an associate membership with Pro Coro Canada.

As a Lecturer at the University of Alberta, Adam teaches courses in conducting, music history, and music theory.

Shawn Grenke | piano

Conductor, pianist and organist, Shawn Grenke is Director of Music at Eglinton St. George's United Church in Toronto, Artistic Director of the 80 Voice Achill Choir, Accompanist to the Elmer Iseler Singers of Toronto, and was Associate Conductor & Collaborative Accompanist for the Amadeus Choir of Toronto for 15 years. He has performed at Roy Thomson Hall, on CBC Radio, and in many festivals, concert series and recitals throughout Canada, the United States and Europe. Shawn is currently pursuing a DMA in Choral Conducting at the University of Alberta and as well, artist in residence at St. George's Anglican Church in Edmonton.

University of Alberta Concert Choir

Soprano

Hana Baird
Angela Bittman
Helen Brown
Ange Cullen
Ashley-Marie Ference
Mia Flynn
Cat Frenzel
Raina Kibria
Erielyn Lister
Fionna McCrostie
Isabelle Nayet
Meredith Poole
Ella Romanchych
Christina Wang

Alto

Amy Chau
Makayla Chin
Karina Fariña
Makayla Forde
Caitlyn Ledohowski
Jenny Lee
Genevieve Lyder
Sheila McCallum
Courtney McDowell
Olivia Mitchell
Ginny Pei

Bass

Ashley Biddiscombe
Matthew Borlē
Taymoor Ismail
Kit McKenney
Neil Ren
Carson Sautner
Michael Torri
Jeremy Wiens

Tenor

Joel Longson
Grayson MacKenzie
Andrew Whiteside

Upcoming Concert Choir Events

Saturday, March 4, 2023 | 7:00pm | Southminster-Steinhauer United Church
Annual Disney Cabaret Fundraiser (tickets on sale in 2023)

Sunday, March 19, 2023 | 3:00pm | Winspear Centre
UofA Choir Extravaganza (tickets on sale in 2023)

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