

Carry the Light



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*“There’s a light that’s inside
That I’m not gonna hide,
‘Cause that light will make the embers ignite.*

*And the light that’s in me will forever be.
I will carry the light.”*

-Andy Beck

*“Open the window,
Sweep out the cobwebs,
Open your mind to what is going on all around!*

*Tear down the fences,
Use all your senses —
Learn everything!”*

-Miss Stacy

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In the spirit of Reconciliation, Confederation Centre of the Arts acknowledges that the land upon which our organization stands is ancestral Mi'kmaq territory. Epekwitk (PEI), Mi'kma'ki, is covered by the historic Treaties of Peace and Friendship. We pay our respects to the Indigenous Mi'kmaq People who have occupied this Island for over 12,000 years; past, present and future. We work in collaboration and friendship with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit artists and storytellers from across Canada to promote cultural learning and understanding.

Message from the Director of Arts Education and Heritage at Confederation Centre of the Arts

On behalf of Confederation Centre of the Arts, thank you for being a part of our vibrant community. Confederation Centre celebrated its 60th anniversary this year, and it has grown into a place where people can learn about how Canada was formed and how it continues to grow and change – always with the arts at the heart of it. As we look to the future, we remain committed to engaging greater audiences through artistic offerings that reflect our vibrant and rich communities, ensure accessibility, and that represent our shared voices.

As you know, renovations have begun at Confederation Centre, which is the culmination of years of strategic planning and community engagement. We appreciate you being a part of this transitional time at the Centre, which includes changes in rehearsal and performance spaces, among other things. We can't wait to share our new, accessible music rehearsal spaces with you when they are ready in just a couple of short years. Thank you for being on this journey with us. Enjoy today's performance!



Francesca Perez
Director of Arts Education
and Heritage

JOIN THE CHOIR!



**2025-2026 early-bird registration available
from April 30, 2025 to July 31, 2025**

Regular registration August 1, 2025

Visit confederationcentre.com/choir
for more information.

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Message from the Director of Choral Music at Confederation Centre of the Arts

Welcome to the Confederation Youth Chorus Winter Concert 2024! We are excited to share with you the culmination of our work this session. Thank you for being here to celebrate these young singers and our growing musical community.

Membership in the Youth Chorus program has increased by nearly 50% since last season! More voices means more support surrounding each singer in a safe space for all to learn and grow as vocalists, musicians, and ensemble collaborators. By performing music in a variety of styles and regularly participating in vocal technique and musicianship activities, our aim is to expand every chorister's ability to enjoy and engage with any musical material they encounter. The more developed the musical ear, eye, and body, the more accessible the many benefits of music become – cognitive, emotional, social, and physical.

In this concert we explore what it means to "Carry the Light." We each have a light inside us, a fire that is unique and valuable, and every person deserves the opportunity to nurture that light and share it with the world. Feeling inspired to do so can bring great learning, discovery, and imagination.

We will present many songs that evoke both the joys and the challenges of learning new things and carrying our light in the world. From celebrations of candlelight and fireflies to holiday favourites about frolicking in the snow and getting warm and cozy by the fire, through it all run the themes of curiosity, wonder, and the power we each hold to make a difference.



Nick MacDonald
Director of Choral Music

Growing up and standing up for what we believe are beautiful and powerful things, but they can also be incredibly difficult at times. Choral music and all of the arts can help us find and fuel the light we all need, young and old, to see the way forward. Seeing the shining eyes of our singers as they sing and move together, I can believe that the future is bright.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this concert possible; most of all the choristers themselves who have brought such great dedication and passion to rehearsals week after week.

Thank you for coming and enjoy the show!

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JUNIOR YOUTH CHORUS

Ayushi Bandukeerthi
Annah Chaudhary
Krista Chen
Daniel Feng
Luna Gong
Eva Gu
Penelope Hill

Aisha Kucukkaya
Arantxa Meza
Malia Rutayisire
Marina Wang
Cecelia Wu
Emmy Yan

INTERMEDIATE YOUTH CHORUS

Rithvi Bandukeerthi
Kadence Clow
Jorja Dempsey
Claire Doyle
Jessica Feng
Dinelle Fernando
Sophia Margaux Guanzon
Madelyn Harris
Claire Jeffrey
Grayson Joyce
Angel Lee
Anna Locke
Miya/Xinran Luo
Jillian MacDonald
Alissa Mahar

Rosie Moase
Nicole/Mary Nicolette Octot
Abi Rock
Victoria Rong
Daria Ross
Ferdinand Tam
Jean Thorkelson
Simone/Xinmeng Wang
Georgia Wood
Scarlett You
Nick/Yichen Zhang
Suzy/Zixin Zhang
Tina Zhu





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PROGRAM

COMBINED YOUTH CHORUS

Carry the Light

Words and music by Andy Beck

JUNIOR YOUTH CHORUS

Firefly

Words and music by Andy Beck

The Candelight Canon

Words and music by Audrey Snyder

COMBINED YOUTH CHORUS

Open the Window from “Anne of Green Gables – The Musical™”

Words by Mavor Moore

Music by Norman Campbell

INTERMEDIATE YOUTH CHORUS

Do Better

Words and music by Kathryn Parrotta

In Winter

Words and music by Rebecca Rossiter

Candles are Dancing

Words and music by Penny Blake and Harris Loewen



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PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

Traditional French Carol

Arranged by Donna Gartman Schultz

You Learn from “Jagged Little Pill: The Musical”

Words by Alanis Morissette

Music by Alanis Morissette and Glen Ballard

COMBINED YOUTH CHORUS

Winter Fantasy

(Please sing along! See included lyrics)

By Jill Gallina

Inspired by “Jingle Bells” words and music by John Pierpont

Let It Snow!

(Please sing along! See included lyrics)

Words by Sammy Cahn

Music by Jule Styne

Arranged by Greg Gilpin

Shine

Words by Monik Walters and Matt Podd

Music by Matt and Adam Podd



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SINGALONG LYRICS

Winter Fantasy / Jingle Bells

By Jill Gallina

Inspired by "Jingle Bells" words and music by John Pierpont

Snowflakes falling all over town
Slipping, sliding, everybody rushin' round
There's an icy chill in the air
Telling us that winter's really here – Oh!
I'm so glad that winter is here!
Grab your sled and let out a happy cheer because it's
Snowing, blowing all through the day
Winter winds will surely blow all your cares away!

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way!
Bells on bob-tails ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to laugh and sing
A sleighing song tonight – Oh!
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way
Oh what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way
Oh what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh

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SINGALONG LYRICS

Let It Snow!

Words by Sammy Cahn

Music by Jule Styne

Arranged by Greg Gilpin

Oh, the weather outside is frightful
But the fire is so delightful
And since we've no place to go
Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

It doesn't show signs of stopping
And I've bought some corn for popping
The lights are turned way down low
Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

When we finally kiss goodnight
How I hate going out in the storm!
But if you really hold me tight
All the way home I'll be warm

The fire is slowly dying
And my dear, we're still goodbye-ing
But as long as you love me so
Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

When we finally kiss goodnight
How I hate going out in the storm!
But if you really hold me tight
All the way home I'll be warm

The fire is slowly dying
And my dear, we're still goodbye-ing
But as long as you love me so
Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

Let it snow! Let it snow!



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PROGRAM NOTES

We open with the title piece of our concert, Andy Beck's original work in a contemporary pop ballad style. In the composer's own words, the lyrics of **Carry the Light** speak from the following belief: "I have a light inside, it shines the brightest parts of me, and I'm going to carry it through dark times, through bright times, through hardships and hope." The song also includes the traditional Latin text "Lux Aeterna" which translates to "eternal light," mixing these words with original lyrics referring to the light inside each of us shining eternally.

As winter arrives each year and we move into our coats and scarves and cozy homes, it's a good time to remember that the fires we kindle in our fireplaces and furnaces can also serve as reminders of the warmth we can each carry for each other, providing shelter from the cold, dark, and stormy times of life.

The Junior division of the Youth Chorus continues with a duo of pieces comparing and contrasting different sources of "firelight." The first is also by Andy Beck, this time a jaunty celebration of the **Firefly** with music that paints a vivid picture of the bioluminescent insects "flashing and flickering" as they weave through the night. This is followed by **The Candlelight Canon** in which composer Audrey Snyder gently invites us to come into the light from the dark and stormy night. Alternating between softly flowing lines and insistent repeated phrases, this piece gives the Junior Chorus the chance to practice different rhythmic patterns while maintaining warm, connected phrasing.

The Intermediate division joins the Junior Chorus on stage for **Open the Window**, a favourite number from *Anne of Green Gables – The Musical™*, which has graced the stage at the Confederation Centre of the Arts for decades. This song serves to honour author Lucy Maud Montgomery's 150th anniversary of birth and expands the theme of our concert to include carrying the light of curiosity and the search for knowledge and wisdom. Just as Miss Stacy inspires Anne and her classmates to "learn everything," we hope you'll be inspired as the audience to sing in response to the choir "calls" in the middle section of this piece!

The Intermediate Chorus will remain on stage to perform a set of five songs weaving together the themes of light, winter, and learning.

Do Better was composed by Kathryn Parrotta, a conductor with the Youth Singers of Calgary who premiered the piece in 2022. This powerfully percussive composition challenges us to ask ourselves the hard questions when we're faced with oppression, injustice, and ignorance. It also challenges the ensemble musically to deliver the text with clear diction and powerful articulation while incorporating varied body percussion.



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PROGRAM NOTES (CONTINUED)

Rebecca Rossiter has composed a beautifully lyrical ode to the season that gives the singers an opportunity to explore legato articulation and waves of dynamic contrast. **In Winter** requires a subtle ear and attention to detail as the piece grows and develops in both tonality and range and we explore the many magical qualities of this time of year.

With Penny Blake and Harris Loewen's **Candles are Dancing** it is as though we've come inside at the end of a beautiful day of winter wandering to find a rollicking party with dancing and candlelight shimmering a golden orange glow on the walls, as the shadows of revelers spin and twirl around the room. Before the end of the piece we take some time to slow down, embracing the darkness and what it can teach us, before bursting back out onto the floor with a final flourish.

A quieter moment follows with the beloved French carol **Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella**, arranged by Donna Gartman Schultz in a stately waltz appropriate for a lullaby and giving the choir good exercise in singing lightly with support in a higher vocal range.

The Intermediate set goes out rocking with **You Learn** from *Jagged Little Pill The Musical*. Fans of Alanis Morissette will remember this powerful anthem to personal perseverance, originally released in 1995 and revamped in the musical which won the Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album in 2020. The song highlights the value of not only withstanding hardship, but even inviting it with the knowledge that with every challenge comes an opportunity to learn.

The Youth Chorus will combine to end our concert with three pieces that celebrate the season and bring our theme full circle.

Winter Fantasy was written by Jill Gallina as a partner melody with **Jingle Bells** as a celebration of the joys of winter play. **Let it Snow**, arranged in a straight 60's rock style by Greg Gilpin, is a classic celebration of being cozy indoors on a wintry night. We invite the audience to sing along with both songs!

We conclude our performance today with **Shine** by Monik Walters and the Podd brothers. This song, written in a driving and soaring pop style, highlights the strength and resilience we can find in writing our stories our own way, carrying our own light, and sharing that light with others as we work for a better world together: "When our light begins to grow, from miles away you'll see the glow when we lead with love and let it show."

Thank you for coming to support our Confederation Youth Chorus today!
May we all carry the light for each other.



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Nick MacDonald, Director of Choral Music

Nick MacDonald is a conductor, educator, and performer dedicated to exploring the power of collective singing to inspire joy, creativity, and connection in people of all ages. Nick grew up in New England and began guitar lessons at age 10. Participation in school music programs, musicals, and numerous regional and state music festivals began a lifelong passion for choral singing. He has since become known for offering inclusive and engaging spaces in which all feel welcome to connect, learn, grow, and explore their own authentic voice.

After completing a Bachelor of Music in Music Education at the University of Southern Maine, Nick continued private vocal studies with tenor Mark Sprinkle of the Blue Heron Renaissance Choir and participated in workshops and master classes with choral leaders including Rollo Dilworth, Hilary Apfelstadt, John William Trotter, Caron Daley, and Craig Jessop. He worked as a choral director and music teacher in public and private schools, churches, community choral programs, and as a private instructor in voice and guitar. Before relocating to Prince Edward Island in 2017, he served as Choral Director at the Waynflete School and Music Director of the Tri-City Community Chorus.

Since moving to PEI, Nick has offered workshops focusing on voice, movement, and music theory at Confederation Centre of the Arts, as well as classes and performances for young children. He also performed as a bass-baritone with Charlottetown-based Luminos Ensemble and Under the Spire Music Festival's "Spire Choir."

Jacqueline Sorensen Young, Collaborative Pianist

Jacqueline Sorensen Young is a Registered Music Teacher (RMT), a Certified Teacher of the Royal Conservatory of Music, and teaches private piano lessons in downtown Charlottetown. She is currently Director of Music at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church in Charlottetown, and freelances as a collaborative pianist for local professional musicians, students and choirs. As a member of the Canadian Music Festival Adjudicators' Association, she has adjudicated for over 55 music festivals across Atlantic and Central Canada since 2000. She received her Bachelor of Music from the University of Prince Edward Island in 1992. She has formerly held teaching positions at UPEI Department of Music and Holland College School of Performing Arts, and was a piano examiner for the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.