

# Hearts All Whole



Nick MacDonald - Director of Choral Music  
Jamie Feinberg - Collaborative Pianist



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*“Summer holds the Earth, hearts all whole.  
Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder,  
Wandering far alone of shadows on the stars.”*

-James Agee

*“There is a crack, a crack in everything.  
That’s how the light gets in.”*

-Leonard Cohen



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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 sharing your voices with us. This transitional season has been one of new beginnings, new spaces, and new faces. We appreciate you being a part of this exciting time of growth at the Centre.

Renovations are well underway with our new Arts Education spaces at Confederation Centre, and we can't wait to share them with you. 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 May 1, 2025 to July 31, 2025**

**Regular registration August 1, 2025**

Visit [confederationcentre.com/choir](https://confederationcentre.com/choir)  
for more information.

## SUMMER YOUTH CHOIR CAMPS

**Fundamentals (ages 8-18) July 29 - August 1**  
**Intensive (ages 10-18) - August 4 - 8**

Registration now open at  
[confederationcentre.com/arts-education-camps](https://confederationcentre.com/arts-education-camps)

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

Welcome to the Confederation Singers Spring Concert 2025! As Director of Choral Music I am so grateful for our choir's growth this season. The commitment of choristers to welcome and support each other has been inspiring, and the ensemble features a newly-expanded bass section whose dedication and growing camaraderie have been wonderful to witness.

In a concert centred on gratitude, we must give thanks to the many people who have made this event possible: the staff and crew of the Centre, the Arts Education team, our wonderful collaborative pianist Jamie Feinberg, our amazing singers and, of course, YOU, our audience and community.

In this program we explore many approaches to gift-giving, with the first portion focused on the simple pleasures that we seem to receive, free of charge, from the world and those who love us. This begins with an invocation of thanks by Russell Wallace of the St'at' imc and Lil'wat Nation, evoking feelings of both grounding and uplift. Our concert title is drawn from James Agee's poem, "Sure on This Shining Night," which epitomizes a sense of openness and wonder. This powerful text was set luxuriously by Samuel Barber in 1938 – in a time when cherishing the beauty in the world was becoming increasingly crucial. This piece places the listener within the sheer awe of a beautiful summer's night. It is in these magical moments, when we simply see the stars and breathe, that we can believe, somehow, that indeed "all is health."

As our program progresses, focus shifts from receiving gifts to generously giving them. Leonard Cohen's classic "Anthem" famously acknowledges that "there is a crack...in everything. That's how the light gets in." The Japanese kintsugi pottery on the cover of our program book reflects this idea. The broken shards are not discarded, nor is there an attempt to hide its brokenness. Instead the cracks are filled with gold, highlighting the gift of strength that comes from honouring the wounds of the past to heal and move forward.



**Nick MacDonald**  
Director of Choral Music

With the Black spiritual "Witness" and Rankin Family favourite "We Rise Again," we conclude with stirring calls to action. The act of earnestly bearing witness to each other's strength and suffering, as well as to the divine in our lives however we interpret it, is one of the greatest gifts we can give each other as human beings. In doing this we come together to rise again and again like the waves out on the ocean.

As the summertime is coming, this evening's music offers an opportunity to celebrate new beginnings and reflect on what we love, whether we be contentedly star-gazing or grappling with reimagining our reality. We sincerely hope you enjoy the performance and that you may depart with your heart feeling whole.

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## CHORISTERS

Ann Auld\*  
Nigel Briell  
Janice Burke  
Susannah Campbell\*  
Stella Chen  
Qiao Mei Cheng  
Alicia Chiasson  
Ann Marie Clow  
Gina Clow  
Kevin Connelly  
Fiep de Bie  
Gail Dixon  
Lorie Fowler\*  
Susie Fraser

F. Sheila Gallant  
Alison Galley  
Shannon Hartigan  
Ian Hogg  
Ruth Houtby  
Keelin Howe\*  
Jingxue Li  
Jane Liu  
Michael Ma  
Kya MacBean  
Christian MacDonald  
Joshua MacFadyen  
Brian Matthie  
Nora McCarthy Joyce

Ashley McLellan\*  
Anne McLeod\*  
Anastasiia Mikhailova  
Wanda Naylor\*  
Emily O'Brien  
Janice Ployer  
Lindsay Schick  
Marina Simon  
Nancy Smith  
Callista Tan  
Roxana Valverde  
Andrea VanWiechen  
Tina Wang  
Xinyue Yang

\*Section leaders





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## PROGRAM

### **Prayer Song**

Words by Flora Wallace

Music by Russell Wallace

Edited by Sam Dabrusin, Larry Nickel

### **Sure on This Shining Night**

Words by James Agee

Music by Samuel Barber

Arranged by Jacob Narverud

### **I'll Give My Love an Apple**

English and Canadian folk tunes

Arranged by Nick MacDonald

### **Wild Mountain Thyme**

William McPeake

Additional lyrics by Robert Burns

Arranged by Marti Lunn Lantz and Lois Brownsey

### **Simple Gifts**

Attributed to Elder Joseph Brackett, 1848

Arranged by Nick MacDonald

### **Give Good Gifts**

Anonymous Shaker Hymn, 1893

### **Anthem**

Leonard Cohen

Arranged by Willi Zwozdesky

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## PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

### **Blackbird**

John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Arranged by Deke Sharon

### **Witness**

Traditional Spiritual

Arranged by Jack Halloran and Dick Bolks

### **We Rise Again**

Leon Dubinsky

Arranged by Stephen Smith and Scott MacMillan



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## **Nick MacDonald, Director of Choral Music**

Nick MacDonald (he/him) 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 Luminos Ensemble and Under the Spire Music Festival's "Spire Choir."

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## **Jamie Feinberg, Collaborative Pianist**

Jamie Feinberg (she/her/hers) is a performing artist, coach, mental fitness trainer, speaker and writer who finds joy in helping people to create a life they love. After spending the early part of her career as a professional musical director, arts educator, and performer, she started her own theatre company in New Hampshire in 2010, toured the states from 2016-2021 in an RV with her husband, and in August of 2021 moved to PEI. She is the director of Island A Cappella, a competitive, community a cappella chorus for women and non-binary people based in Charlottetown, and a freelance vocal coach and collaborative pianist.