

Circles of Song

A CONFEDERATION SINGERS SPRING CONCERT

COMPASSTECH

2025/26

LIVE
AT THE CENTRE

Nick MacDonald - Director of Choral Music
Alexandra Arsenault - Collaborative Pianist

SPONSORED BY:

MARITIME
ELECTRIC
A FORTIS COMPANY



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 Arts Academy Director

Welcome, and thank you for being a cherished part of the musical community here at Confederation Centre of the Arts. It is truly a pleasure to see our choral family continue to grow and flourish under Nick's leadership.

We are excited to share that the Centre is stepping into a bright new chapter. Our arts education programming is being brought together under a new name — the Arts Academy — reflecting our commitment to growth and excellence. Rest assured, all existing courses, workshops, and classes continue as planned; the only thing changing is the look and feel of how we communicate with you.

We are proud to be building toward a future as a nationally recognized arts education destination, and we can't wait to welcome you into our new, purpose-built programming spaces in the Centre's renovated wing before the end of 2026.

Thank you for growing with us.



Francesca Perez
Director, Arts Academy
(formerly Arts Education and Heritage)



JOIN THE CHOIR!

SING, CONNECT, AND GROW!

Early bird registration opens May 19th, 2026

YOUTH (Age 8-18)
Junior, Intermediate,
+ NEW Senior

ADULTS (Age 18+)
Confederation Singers

Visit confederationcentre.com/choir
For more information contact:
nmacdonald@confederationcentre.com

Message from the Choral Director

Welcome to Circles of Song!

Today the Confederation Singers present a concert for Springtime centred around the cycles and seasons we find all around us. Through a wide range of musical influences both local and global, we investigate how this patient yet persistent movement can nurture a turn toward love and healing in the circles of our own lives. We sing to honour the turning of the world to a new season and the return of growth to the land, the water, and the sky — and to reflect on the ways these changes can be reflected in our inner worlds and relationships.

We are proud to include in the program songs from our own musical circles right here on PEI. We open with a sweeping mash-up of two wonderful rounds: The traditional “Round and Round the Earth is Turning“ with “All Around the Circle” by PEI based children’s musician Molly Whuppie, a song that appears on her 2025 album, “homegrown.” Special thanks to Molly for the opportunity to arrange and perform this tune!

On the theme of growing our own, we also present a brand new choral arrangement of “My Family,” one of the most beloved and moving numbers from the Centre’s recent home grown hit, “Tale Tell Harbour.” Special thanks also to Bob Foster and the Charlottetown Festival for the chance to premiere this beautiful ballad in a choral setting.

In addition to full ensemble work, we hope you will enjoy several chorister solos in “Turn! Turn! Turn!” and “The Circle Game” – the latter of course written by Joni Mitchell, who was recently honoured at the Junos with a Lifetime Achievement Award.



A huge thank you to everyone who made this concert possible today: Our sponsor Maritime Electric, the staff and crew of the Centre, our volunteers, our wonderful collaborative pianist Alexandra Arsenault, and to the choristers for their amazing energy, enthusiasm and dedication to the collective creativity of singing together. And thank you to you, our audience and community. Your support of our program and of live choral music on Prince Edward Island truly makes our world go around!

Nick MacDonald
Director of Choral Music

CHORISTERS

Alicia Arsenault	Ellen MacDonald
Ann Auld	Christian MacDonald
Beibei (Yu) Bao	Jillian MacDonald
Janice Burke	Nora McCarthy
Tavie Dakin	Heather McIsaac
Ocel Dauphinais-Matheson	Ashley McLellan
Fiep De Bie	Anne McLeod
Gail Dixon	Emily O'Brien
Lorie Fowler	Janice Ployer
Sheila Gallant	Lindsay Schick
Alison Galley	Angi Simmons
Abbey Gopsill	Becca Striman
Shannon Hartigan	Callista Tan
Ian Hogg	Tina Wang
Ruth Houtby	Sarah (Xin) Wang
Margaret Lavictoire	Xinyue Yang
Leslie Macdonald	Cheryl Young
Ella MacDonald	

PROGRAM

Round and Round the Circle

Traditional English, Molly Whuppie, arranged by Nick MacDonald

Turn! Turn! Turn!

Words based on the Book of Ecclesiastes
Adaptation and music by Pete Seeger, arranged by Roger Emerson
Soloist: Ruth Houtby

Sumer is Icumen In

Attributed to John of Fornsete (c. 1226)

Now is the Month of Maying

Thomas Morley

The Circle Game

Joni Mitchell, arranged by Audrey Snyder
Soloists: Janice Burke, Beibei (Yu) Bao

Blackbird

John Lennon and Paul McCartney, arranged by Deke Sharon

My Family (from “Tell Tale Harbour”)

Adam Brazier, Alan Doyle, Robert Foster, and Edward Riche; arranged by Robert Foster

Circle Round for Freedom

Linda Hirshhorn

Turn the World Around

Harry Belafonte and Robert Freedman, arranged by Roger Emerson

The Parting Glass

Traditional Scottish and Irish, arranged by The Wailin’ Jennys

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you our sponsor Maritime Electric, the staff and crew of the Centre, our volunteers, our wonderful collaborative pianist Alexandra Arsenault, to the choristers themselves for their amazing voices and dedication, and to you, our audience and community for being a part of our musical family!



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.

After relocating to PEI in 2017, Nick has performed with a range of local ensembles, led workshops in voice, movement, and music theory, and offered music classes and performances for young children.

Alexandra Arsenault, Collaborative Pianist

Alexandra Arsenault is an educator and freelance musician based in Summerside, PEI. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from UPEI, and a Master's degree in Education from UNB. Currently, Alexandra works full time as an elementary school music teacher in Summerside. Alexandra is also a member of the PEI Department of Education and Early Years Elementary Music committee, which works to develop and implement PEI's new K-6 music curriculum, as well as deliver professional development to PEI school music teachers. In addition to her education career, Alexandra directs and accompanies her school's biennial musical theatre productions, has owned and operated a private piano studio for over 20 years, and performs on piano and saxophone with a variety of individuals and ensembles.