

The Needs We Feed

A CONFEDERATION YOUTH CHORUS SPRING CONCERT



COMPASSTECH 2025/26

LIVE
AT THE CENTRE

Nick MacDonald - Director of Choral Music
Jacqueline Sorensen Young - Collaborative Pianist

SPONSORED BY:

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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 Arts Academy Director

We are so glad you are here, and we thank you for being a valued member of our musical community at Confederation Centre of the Arts. It has been a joy to watch our choral family flourish under Nick's direction.

We have some exciting news to share: the Centre is embarking on a new chapter in arts education. All of our programming — courses, workshops, and classes — will now be united under a new name: the Arts Academy. Nothing changes in terms of scheduling or content; you will simply begin to notice refreshed branding and messaging that reflects this new identity in the months ahead.

As we work toward becoming a nationally recognized arts education organization, we are grateful to be growing alongside such wonderful students and families. We also look forward to welcoming you into purpose-built arts spaces in the Centre's newly renovated wing, coming by the end of 2026.

Thank you for being part of this journey 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 The Needs We Feed!

Today's concert represents the culmination of the Confederation Centre Youth Chorus's work together since January. In it we present a series of songs in many styles and from many perspectives, exploring the ways our world can nourish us – body, heart, mind, and soul.

Our combined opening number is "We are the Day," a rousing and rhythmic anthem to collective empowerment. The Junior Chorus will then share songs about those who take care of us, and how we can take care of each other. We will sing of the Earth, the Moon, and the Sun, as well as the story of a mischievous and hungry fox. This set also features a song requested by the singers themselves: "Flowers Need Rain" by Preston Pablo and Banx & Ranx. The Junior Chorus concludes with some timeless advice from a certain magical nanny on how to deal with some aspects of life that might be a bit hard to swallow.

The full Youth Chorus will come together again in the middle of the program to perform a mashup of two rounds: The traditional "Round and Round the Earth is Turning" and "All Around the Circle." The latter was written by PEI based children's musician Molly Whuppie and recorded on her 2025 album "Homegrown." Special thanks to Molly for the opportunity to perform this wonderful tune in a choral setting!

The Intermediate Chorus's portion of the program will feature songs about the hunger for knowledge, for experience and expression, and seeking space to fly away and find your own path – along with ways to slow down and breathe deep when things get a little overwhelming. This set features a number of chorister soloists performing in "For Good" and "Brave,"— songs that highlight the value of speaking our truth and appreciating all the help that's offered to us by loved ones throughout our lives.



Nick MacDonald
Director of Choral Music

We end our performance today with an invitation to "Dig a Little Deeper," finding in ourselves and in our communities that which truly sustains us and feeds our needs, from food to friends, and from family to freedom!

A huge thank you to everyone who made this concert possible, especially the choristers themselves for their dedication, their enthusiasm, and their endless energy and ideas. And thank you to you, our audience and community, for coming out to experience and support live choral music on Prince Edward Island. Music and singing are deep human needs in themselves and we hope you enjoy our offering today. May we all find blue skies and sunshine – guaranteed!

CHORISTERS

JUNIOR CHORUS

David Bao
Alexandra Beck
Agnes Chen
Luna Gong
Nayelie Gunathilake
Penelope Hill
Celia Huang

Roman Joseph
Royal Joseph
Ryan Joseph
Aisha Kucukkaya
Gulsah Kucukkaya
Shantal Meza
Malia Rutayisire

Charlotte Su
Nora Trainor
Clara Walker
Emmy Yan
Katharine Yao
Isla Fleur Younker
Olivia Yu

INTERMEDIATE CHORUS

Ayushi Bankeerthi
Rithvi Bankeerthi
Annah Chaudhary
Jorja Dempsey
Claire Doyle
Iggy (Ingrid) Fitzky
Mimi (Myriad) Fitzky
Sofia Garza
Madelyn Harris

Aiko (Shui Ying) Hung
Grayson Joyce
Marcus Lai
Angel Lee
Austin Li
Anna Locke
Miya (Xinran) Luo
Alissa Mahar
William McCarthy

Arantxa Meza
Rosie Moase
Nicole Octot
Victoria Rong
Daria Ross
Ada Turk-Jacques
Nina Xu
Eason Zhang
Nick Zhang

PROGRAM

Combined Youth Chorus

We are the Day!

Mark Burrows

Junior Chorus

I Thank The Earth/This Pretty Planet

Ina Hata, Tom Chapin, arranged by Nick MacDonald

The Fox

Traditional English, arranged by Nick MacDonald

Silver Moon

Lin Marsh

Flowers Need Rain

Preston Pablo and Banx & Ranx

A Spoonful of Sugar (from "Mary Poppins")

Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman

Combined Youth Chorus

Round and Round the Circle

Traditional English, Molly Whuppie, arranged by Nick MacDonald

Intermediate Chorus

I Am Song

Mark Burrows

Curiosity

Amy F. Bernon, arranged by Roger Emerson

A Question of Tempo

Joanne Hammil

PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

Fly Away Home

Pinkzebra

Ordinary

Margaret Elizabeth Chapman, Caleb Shapiro and Adam Yaron
As performed by Alex Warren

For Good (from “Wicked”)

Stephen Schwartz, arranged by Mac Huff
Soloists: Anna Locke, Daria Ross, Alissa Mahar

Brave

Sara Bareilles and Jack Antonoff, arranged by Audrey Snyder
Soloists: William McCarthy, Jorja Dempsey

Combined Youth Chorus

Dig a Little Deeper (from “The Princess and the Frog”)

Randy Newman, arranged by Mark Brymer

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to all our volunteers, parents, guardians, and the crew and staff of the Confederation Centre, to our sponsor Maritime Electric, and to our audience and community for supporting these amazing young singers!

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.

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.