

Expect Something Different!



Robert Cooper, C.M.  
Artistic Director

Walter Mahabir  
Apprentice Conductor

Edward Moroney  
Accompanist

## PRESS RELEASE

### PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

#### **ORPHEUS CHOIR BRINGS TO LIFE A CLASSIC FILM JOURNEY INTO THE PARISIAN UNDERWORLD**

The Orpheus Choir of Toronto announces its next concert: **PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**, on Friday, October 30, 2015, 7:30PM at Grace Church on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Rd.

Not an Andrew Lloyd-Webber fest, this not-so-silent version of the 1925 classic silent horror *Phantom of the Opera* features a *live, original* choral soundtrack crafted to accompany the film.

Set in the magnificent Palais Garnier, Paris' grandiloquent opera house, *Phantom* opens with the debut of the new season at the Paris Opera with a production of Gounod's *Faust*. Immediately we are taken through the splendour of the grand staircase and into the Chagall festooned *Theatre* with its full house, large pit orchestra and busy stage action, and thrust into the Romantic world of French grand opera.

The world of French opera and some of its greatest proponents, Gluck, Gounod, Bizet, Saint-Saens, and Poulenc along with Tchaikovsky and Morricone become the sources for complementary background music. Further works by more traditional choral composers act as specific mood enhancers as the scenic design shifts quickly from comedy to intimate tenderness, from undercurrents of suspicion to overt tension, and from sorrowful empathy to high dramatic action.

Long revered by film buffs, the 1925 *Phantom of the Opera* silent film classic has been deemed "culturally significant" by the Library of Congress and selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry. The Orpheus choir breathes new life into this macabre cinematic marvel, complemented by organist Edward Moroney's inspired improvisation, just in time for a date with Halloween.

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Concert Tickets: \$35, \$30, \$10. Online: [www.orpheuschoirtoronto.com](http://www.orpheuschoirtoronto.com); Phone: 416-530-4428  
At the Door: Grace Church on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Rd.

For more information: Lisa Griffiths, Managing Director: [lisa.griffiths@orpheuschoirtoronto.com](mailto:lisa.griffiths@orpheuschoirtoronto.com);  
[www.orpheuschoirtoronto.com](http://www.orpheuschoirtoronto.com)

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#### **2015-2016 Concert Season Supported by:**

Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts  
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The **Orpheus Choir of Toronto** has earned a reputation as "one of Toronto's most distinguished and important choirs" (Larry Beckwith, WholeNote Magazine). Under the artistic leadership of Robert Cooper, the seventy-voice ensemble offers a sumptuous entertainment experience, in keeping with its mandate to celebrate life through the discovery and performance of fine choral music. Now in its 52<sup>nd</sup> season, the Orpheus choir continues to transform Canadian choral performance by championing new and little-known works by Canadian and international composers, and creating immersive presentations and experiences for Toronto audiences. In the last six years alone, the Choir has performed North American or World premieres of works by such composers as Ēriks Ēšēvalds, Howard Goodall, Allan Bevan and Imant Raminsh. With a wide-ranging repertoire of music ranging from secular to sacred, time-honoured classics to experimental works, choral collaborations and forays into multimedia performances, it's only fitting that the Orpheus Choir's mantra is "Expect Something Different". There is truly something for everyone.

[www.orpheuschoirtoronto.com](http://www.orpheuschoirtoronto.com)