



Robert Cooper, C.M.
Artistic Director

Walter Mahabir
Apprentice Conductor

Edward Moroney
Accompanist

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROBERT COOPER WINS CHORAL CANADA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Congratulations to Orpheus Choir Artistic Director, Robert Cooper!

On Sunday, May 22, 2016 Choral Canada announced that Robert Cooper has been awarded the 2016 Distinguished Service Award. This prestigious, national award is given in recognition of significant, transformative, long-term service in building, nurturing and promoting choral music in Canada.

The profoundly positive impact that Robert has made on the Canadian choral landscape was summarized in the jury's comments: *"Robert Cooper has been an incredible luminary in the choral arts throughout Canada. He is a tour de force who is to be commended for his lifelong commitment to choral music throughout the country and beyond. His meticulous preparation of choirs, innovative programming and diverse experience have equipped him to masterfully serve the choral communities in which he has worked. In addition to his work with choirs, Bob has been involved in over 150 operas, symphonic concerts, and has been an advocate of choral music during his career as producer of Choral Concert on CBC, as well as his involvement on the Boards of Choirs Ontario, Choral Canada, Chorus America, IFCM and the World Choir Council."*

Robert has ensured a rich musical future for thousands of young singers through his work with the National Youth Choir of Canada, the Ontario Youth Choir, the Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir, and the Orpheus Choir's Vocal Apprentice and Sidgwick Scholar Programs. In addition to commissioning and premiering many new works by both Canadian and international composers, Robert's mentorship and influence have also helped launch and promote many remarkable careers for young adults in the Canadian choral community. Robert's outstanding vision, dedication and leadership are continually evidenced by his work with, and his unrelenting commitment to, The Orpheus Choir of Toronto's 'expect something different' experience.

The Orpheus Choir is honoured to work with Robert Cooper, and we thank our extraordinary artistic director, conductor, teacher and mentor. Congratulations on this richly deserved award, Bob!

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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 52nd 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 Ešēvalds, 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.