

Expect Something Different!



Robert Cooper, C.M.
Artistic Director

Edward Moroney
Accompanist

Greg Rainville
Assistant Conductor

PRESS RELEASE THE END OF INNOCENCE

ON REMEMBRANCE DAY, ORPHEUS COMMEMORATES THE CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The Orpheus Choir of Toronto launches its 2014/2015 season, 'Orpheus Outstanding', with *The End of Innocence*: a deeply-moving, multi-media performance commemorating the 100th anniversary of the First World War. In a performance dedicated to the memory of Canada's fallen soldiers, Orpheus remembers the pride, passion and pathos of the 'war to end all wars' – Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at Grace Church on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Road.

"WWI was a turning point for Canada, transitioning from a British colony to nationhood. We want our audience to feel that emotional experience with a greater appreciation of Canada's impact in the First World War, through the medium that we so value – choral music" says artistic director Robert Cooper.

The program will feature many Canadian composers including Larry Nickel, Stephen Chatman, Eleanor Daley, Derek Healey, along with Orpheus's own Edward Moroney. For this unique occasion, Moroney has arranged a choral suite of popular songs from the WW1 era, dedicated to the brave men and women of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, who fought valiantly in the Great War.

Chorister Mary Barr has delved deep into the Canadian archives to procure letters from those who served, and shares her experience in reading the letters: "Our audience will hear from front line soldiers, nurses, mothers, and lovers. It will be an emotional journey as the initial enthusiasm and patriotism for King and Country is quickly dampened as the realities of war set in."

These dramatic stories will be brought to life by two of Stratford's finest actors, Mike Shara, and Bethany Jillard. Shara appeared for several years in the Shaw Festival in Niagara on-the-Lake, and is now in his sixth season at the Stratford Festival. His roles have included: Cornwall in *King Lear*, and Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Aimwell in *The Beaux' Stratagem*, and roles in *Othello*. Jillard is in her fifth season with the Stratford Festival. Her roles have included: Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Dorinda in *The Beaux' Stratagem*, and Desdemona in *Othello*.

Joan Nicks, Adjunct Professor of Film at Brock University, has creatively curated images to be projected during the performance. "The images I select come from archives and collections, and must somehow reflect the music, readings and concert theme. Woven into a fluid visual tapestry, they become part of the concert experience."

Through spoken word, song, and gripping imagery, *The End of Innocence* is sure to be a memorable occasion and an Orpheus Choir presentation not to be missed.

Concert Tickets: \$35 Regular, \$30 Senior, and \$15 Student.

Online: www.orpheuschoirtoronto.com Phone: 416-530-4428

For more information: Ryan Moilliet 647-273-9832 ryanwk89@gmail.com www.orpheuschoirtoronto.com

2014-2015 Concert Season Supported by:





ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil des arts
du Canada

The Vern & Frieda Heinrichs Foundation The Jackman Foundation The Goal Getters

The Orpheus Choir of Toronto

To celebrate the transformational power of choral music as an agent of social change and a passionate medium of artistic expression.

www.orpheuschoirtoronto.com