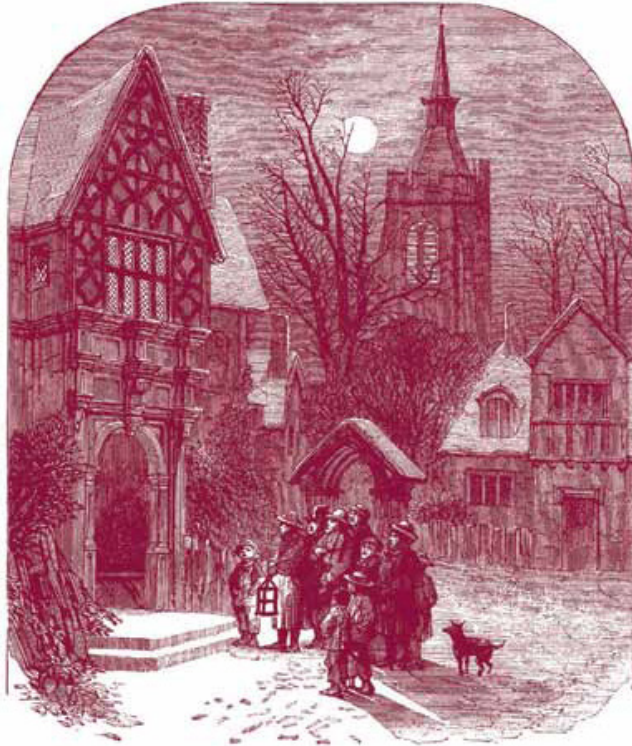


Whispering River Music

MESSIAH

George Frideric Handel

Part 1 (Christmas Portion); Selected Arias & Hallelujah Chorus



December 21st, 2023 // 7:30 pm // Charles W. Stockey Centre

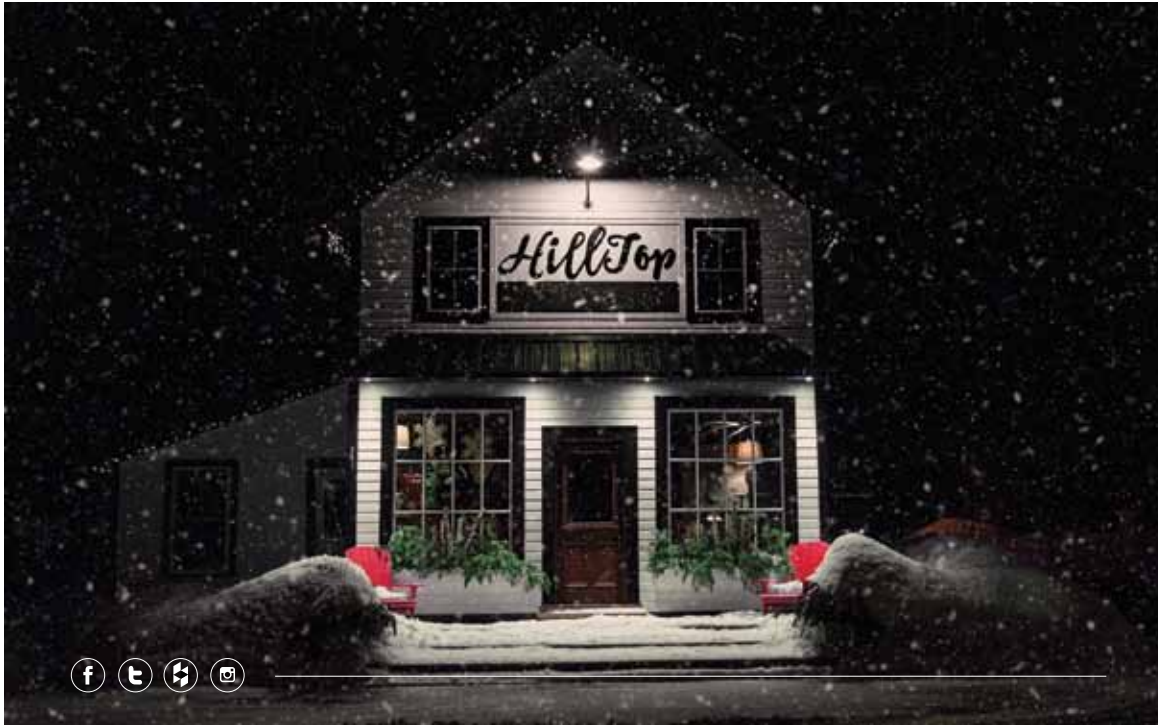
Artistic Director & Orchestra Director: Brenda Margaret Muller

Choirmasters: Louis Tusz & Catherine Maguire

Guest Conductor: Philip Morehead

Amy Dodington, Soprano; Celine Cascanette, Mezzo

Fabian Arciniegas, Tenor; Johnathon Kirby, Bass



YOUR STYLE
YOUR HOME
YOUR LIFE

Innovative. Inspired by nature. Infused with tradition.



BEDROOM



LIGHTING



FURNITURE / DÉCOR

705.732.4040

HILLTOPINTERIORS.COM

1150 HIGHWAY 141, ROSSEAU, ON P0C 1J0

Welcome

Whispering River Music is honored to be presenting George Frideric Handel's MESSIAH this year at the Stockey Centre for many reasons. This is our first post-lockdown presentation of this timeless work, and for us it is a profound gesture of hope. It is presented in the hope that Handel's masterpiece, with its humble traditions and simplicity, will touch us all with its joy and profound telling of the Christmas Story.

Written in 1753 and premiered in Dublin, with a major part of the proceeds going towards a poor Irish Hospital, Handel's oratorio has been performed every year since by community and professional choirs and orchestras around the world.

Dec. 21 is the longest night of the year - a night for reflecting on our need to embrace darkness and move gently into the light of spring, however we understand that. In this context, we are also deeply honored to have Ojibwe Grandmother and Elder, Marilyn Capreol, tell a small part of the river of stories that have flowed through the nations of Turtle Island since time immemorial. We do so in the hope that we can begin in our small way to paddle beside each other, each on our own journey.

A special heartfelt thank you to Nicole Mullen, Kelsey Norris and the Charles W. Stockey Centre team for presenting this concert. We cant tell you how much your support means to us and the musical community.

We recognize that we can only travel together by holding deep respect for each other's truths, no matter how painful they are to recognize and embrace. This Dec. 21 we are honored to renew that journey and mark this annual turning point by embracing together the truths of each other's stories.

No one can deny the troubled world we live in, the wars and famines, the devastating loss of life in the Ukraine, the Middle East and elsewhere, and the destruction that man-caused climate change is bringing on us. No one can deny the homelessness and poverty here and around the world.

At the same time, no one can deny the need for joy, for reconciliation, for hope, for a rebirth and renewal of humanity in times of crisis. No matter what your beliefs are, or which river is your choice to paddle, please know that we offer this as one of the great wisdom stories of all time, and in the hope that you will feel Joy as you travel with us tonight.

Please join us in singing the Hallelujah Chorus at the end of the second half of the program. We welcome you to start your journey towards spring in peace and with music.



Brenda Margaret Muller
Artistic Director
Ardeleana Chamber Music Society
Whispering River Music

SUPPORT Our All Ages String Programs

These special year-round programs present opportunities for everyone ages 6 and up to learn how to play an orchestral stringed instrument - violin, viola, cello, and double bass. Children are invited to learn alongside a friend during String Pals, and adults and seniors looking for new experiences and regular social activities are encouraged to join our Adult Beginner Strings. Students of any age with preexisting skills are welcome to join our Intermediate and Advanced Strings classes.

If you are a recovering string player, have always longed to play, or have a special child in your life who needs a little extra TLC, please visit our website or give us a call and we will get you started. www.whisperingrivermusic.com // 705 996 0736

Whispering River Music Day Camp

A short music “intensive” for musicians ages 6 - 14, operates between July 1-12 and is a great place to try an instrument for the first time. Students participate in music, art and drama classes daily while enjoying an outdoor day-camp environment. On the final day of camp students make a short presentation of their work in all three areas, followed by a family barbecue.

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP

Instruments and materials cost money. Even with the support of our incredible donors, volunteers, community partners, and professional instructors, along with support from the **Ontario Arts Council** and the townships of Seguin and McKellar, we still need funds! There are always more students who need our help. Please help us support these community members with free lessons and instruments by making a donation so we can continue to provide quality music instruction, programming and performances for students of all ages in Parry Sound.

To help us provide quality music education for your community, please visit www.whisperingrivermusic.com/donate-now



Happy Holidays and Thank You

Our wonderful Board of Directors
.....

Our countless volunteers who give heart and soul in the name of community music
.....

Every member of the orchestra and choir who do so much all year round to keep our
Community Music Programs running
.....

Shannon Lai and Zach Louch for all that they do to go overboard for
Whispering River Music
.....

Linda Gibson for being the most dedicated bottle collector in the world!
.....

Dan Moquin, Kathleen Moquin, Rob White, Ryan Wettlaufer and the stage crew
- we couldn't function without you
.....

Roman Shkwarok for taking on anything and everything we throw at you!
.....

Quentin Playfair, Luthier for his generous donations of time and repairs
.....

Brian Oxley for storing and maintaining over 45 stringed instruments of all shapes and sizes
.....

Peter, Liz & Joe Culjak for countless hours of driving in the name of music
.....

Marilyn and Rick Capreol for a multitude of gifts
.....

A special thank you to Rusty for his generous contributions

Thank You to Our Sponsors



Handel's Messiah

George Frideric Handel, Composer (1685 - 1759)

German born, Handel spent the bulk of his career in London where he became a British citizen. In 1741, Handel was ill and facing the horrors of debtors' prison, when a wealthy friend, Charles Jennings, gave him a libretto based on the life of Christ, taken entirely from the Bible. At the same time, he received a commission from a Dublin charity to compose a work for a benefit performance. Desperately in need of funds, Handel completed the 260 manuscript pages of Messiah in a short period of about twenty-four days during the summer of 1741. Handel composed this oratorio of modest proportions for sixteen male choristers, sixteen boys, two women, a small group of string players, timpani and two trumpeters. Messiah first premiered April 13, 1742 during the Easter season in the Great Music Hall on Fishamble Street in Dublin, Ireland for the benefit of local hospitals and two other charities. It received its London premiere the following year. The much loved oratorio has been performed every Christmas and Easter since its inaugural performance in every corner of the world.



Holly Cascanette
Broker

Direct: **705-746-1970**
Office: **705-746-9336**
info@hollycascanette.com
www.hollysellsparrysound.com

RE/MAX
Parry Sound-Muskoka Realty Ltd.,
Brokerage, 47 James St., Parry Sound, On P2A 1T8



Whispering River Music

Whispering River Orchestra

First Violin

Clare Pellerin: Concertmaster
Veda Hingert-McDonald, Katja Matys
Chris McFadden

Second Violin

Nora Pellerin: Principal
Margot Jewell, Kathleen Moquin
Aria Nedell, Nancy Regan

Viola

Alex Andrews: Principal
Peter Culjak, Sofiia Livinska, Brian Oxley

Cello

Brenda Margaret Muller: Principal
Linda Gibson, Shannon Lai
Louise Nicksy, (Judith White)

Double Bass

Val Wilshynsky: Principal
(Zach Louch)

Trumpet

Ryan Wettlaufer

Oboe

Patricia Morehead

Harpsicord

Dan McCoy

Whispering River Chorus

Soprano

Leslie Buckle, Donna Carrington
Vi Deltor, Janet Fellner, Winfer Foster
Margaret Kamerman, Catherine Maguire
Sheila Petch, Karen Sanderson
Esther Stone, Barb Williams

Alto

Nora Alexander, Jennifer Alexis
Holly Cascanette, Anne Kingma
Kit O'Brien, Paula St. Anne, Tina Quelha

Tenor

John Chiles, Stan Hunter, Ron Jewell
Daniel Lord, Jenette McCullough,
Ian Paul, Donald Sanderson, Judith White

Bass

Brian Bell, Frank De Jong, Brad Hunkin
Zach Louch, Jan Sirek, Louis Tusz

String Pals Orchestra

Violin

Meridove Baum, Tinsley Baum
Veronica Constable, Zander LeBreton
Avery McDevitt, Lilyan Moolaei

Viola

Akira Hamel

Cello

Vi Deltor, Maddox Hurry
Colt Mueller, Harrison Walker

Program

MESSIAH

George Frideric Handel

1685 - 1759

1. Overture
2. Comfort Ye (Recitative) TENOR
3. Every Valley (Aria) TENOR
4. And the Glory of the Lord Shall be Revealed (Chorus)
5. Thus Saith the Lord (Recitative) BASS
6. But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming (Aria) ALTO
7. And He Shall Purify (Chorus)
8. Behold a Virgin Shall Conceive (Recitative) ALTO
9. O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion (Aria and Chorus) ALTO
10. For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth (Recitative) BASS
11. The People that Walked in Darkness (Aria) BASS
12. For Unto Us a Child is Born (Chorus)
13. Pastoral Symphony ORCHESTRA
14. There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Field (Recitative) SOPRANO
15. And the Angel Said Unto Them (Recitative) SOPRANO
16. And Lo, the Angel of the Lord Came Upon Them (Recitative) SOPRANO
17. And Suddenly There Was with the Angel (Recitative) SOPRANO
18. Glory to God (Chorus)
19. Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion (Aria) SOPRANO
20. Then Shall The Eyes Of The Blind Be Opened (Recitative) ALTO
21. He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd (Aria) ALTO & SOPRANO
22. His Yoke is Easy (Chorus)

Program

/// INTERMISSION ///

23. I Know That My Redeemer Liveth (Aria) SOPRANO
24. Since By Man Came Death (Chorus)
25. Behold I Tell You a Mystery (Recitative) BASS
26. The Trumpet Shall Sound (Aria) BASS
27. Then Shall be Brought to Pass (Recitative) ALTO
28. O Death Where Is Thy Sting (Aria) ALTO & TENOR
29. But Thanks Be to God (Chorus)
30. Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates (Chorus)
31. Why Do the Nations so Furiously Rage Together (Aria) BASS
32. Let Us Break Their Bonds Asunder (Chorus)
33. He That Dwelleth in Heaven (Recitative) TENOR
34. Thou Shalt Break Them (Aria) TENOR
35. Hallelujah Chorus Please Join Us!

The performers will be grateful to receive your applause
before intermission and at the end of the concert. Thank You!

705-996-0736
www.whisperingrivermusic.com
facebook.com/whisperingrivermusic
whisperingriverorchestra@gmail.com

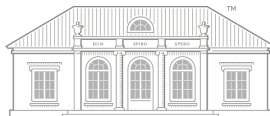




Experience the Difference.

At Engel & Völkers, we believe that luxury is deeply personal. Whether it's waking up to the sound of the lake every morning or living closer to loved ones, our real estate advisors have the local market expertise and a network of personal connections, along with the reach and prestige of a global brand to deliver an unmatched real estate experience.

Learn more at parrysound.evrealstate.com



Matt Smith, MBA
Broker of Record | License Partner
Private Office Advisor
Engel & Völkers Parry Sound
70 Bowes Street | Parry Sound | ON P2A 2L3
+1 705-771-9499 | matt.smith@evrealstate.com

Key Programs

Find Whispering River Music on Facebook for continuing updates or visit www.whisperingrivermusic.com

Community Participation & Performance Programs

Whispering River Orchestra:

An all-ages community based orchestra right here in Parry Sound!

Whispering River Chorus:

A community choir that meets in preparation for specific events and concerts, focusing on major repertoire for choir and orchestra.

Flash Mobs:

Spontaneous eruptions of music throughout the year in the business district of Parry Sound and throughout surrounding townships.

Community Education Programs

String Classes:

Laugh and learn classes for string players of ages and levels. Join anytime!

Clinics, Workshops, Group Classes:

Weekly, monthly and quarterly educational events to inspire developing string players.

String Pals:

An intergenerational weekly workshop and summer day camp for beginning and intermediate string players.

Music Moppets:

A great place for children ages 4 - 8 to learn about the fundamentals of music through song, dance, body percussion rhythms and musical games!

Creative Development Programs

Commissions of New Concert Music:

by Canadian composers.

Workshop Performances:

of New Works for Community Groups at Composers Clinics, Bert Weir Day and more!

Whispering River Summer Orchestra:

Join us for summer pop-up sessions and performances around Muskoka as we are joined by Canada Summer Jobs Student Musicians. It's a great "Summer Sound" experience!

Our Directors

Brenda Margaret Muller, Artistic Director

From her roots as a classically trained cellist, Brenda Margaret Muller has gone on to create conceptual events that weave together poetry, music and song. Working as a Musician, Poet, and Song-writer, as well as Artistic Director for the past 36 years Brenda has created inter-arts events across the province, founded and directed the Ardeleana Chamber Music Society, and released 6 recordings with her trio, Ardeleana, including a CD of original cabaret songs, *Wolf At My Door*, and the first CD to feature only music by Canadian women - *Spinners of Starlight* (1997). She is the creator of two story operas, *Melissa's Song* and *Jonathon's Storm*, both of which have toured across the province to the critical acclaim of enthusiastic young people. She holds an Honours degree in Music Performance from the University of Western Ontario, a Mus. Ed and Honours Specialist in Music from O.I.S.E. University of Toronto. She is currently the founder and director of the Whispering River Orchestra in Parry Sound, Ontario.

Philip Morehead, Conductor

Philip Morehead recently retired as Head of Music Staff of the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Ryan Opera Center, a position he had held since 1991. His previous positions at Lyric have included Music Administrator, Chorus Master and Assistant Conductor. In recent years Mr. Morehead was cover conductor at Lyric Opera for *Die Meistersinger*, *Jenufa*, *Der fliegende Holländer*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Billy Budd* and many others. He conducted regular season performances of *Die Fledermaus*, *Un ballo in maschera* and *The Mikado* and the premiere production of Anthony Davis's *Amistad* and student performances of *La Traviata*, *The Cunning Little Vixen*, *Carmen*, *Die Zauberflöte* and *Pagliacci*. Mr. Morehead is also a free lance conductor, coach, pianist, and harpsichordist. Mr. Morehead was educated at Trinity School, The Baylor School, Swarthmore College, Harvard University, and the New England Conservatory of Music. Mr. Morehead was a founding member of CUBE, a Chicago-based chamber ensemble specializing in the performance of new music. From 1987 to 2013 with the CUBE ensemble he performed as pianist in a wide variety of repertoire and conducted the ensemble in world premieres of William Ferris *An Eden Garden*, Sebastian Huydts *Three Serious Songs*, Russ Grazier *Leaving, Arriving*, Ilya Levinson *The Tell-Tale Heart*, and other works. For the Whispering River Orchestra, he has conducted on several occasions, including *Landscape* for tenor, flute and strings by his wife Patricia.

Our Directors

Catherine Maguire, Choirmaster

Maguire is an accomplished and versatile performer who has worked as a pianist, singer and actor. A graduate of the Bachelor of Music program at the University of Western Ontario and the prestigious Guildhall School in London, England, she also holds the title of “repetiteur” granted to her by the University of Toronto Opera School. Catherine has performed as a pianist extensively in Canada, England and Germany. She has trained and directed numerous choirs including the Blue Bridge Festival Choir in Newmarket. She has been the pianist for the Ardeleana Trio for 15 years, premiered many works of new music, and has recorded many CD’s including “Wolf at My Door” on which she is both vocalist and pianist. Catherine is a gifted teacher and co-founder, with her husband Rod Fogarty, of the West End Music Academy in Toronto. She is also is the pianist for the Eurhythmy Programme at the Toronto Waldorf School and conductor of the St. Francis Assisi Choir in Mississauga.

Louis Tusz, Choirmaster

Louis studied choral techniques and conducting with Deral Johnson at the University of Western Ontario. He taught instrumental and vocal music at Huntsville High School for 30 years, where he was the Head of the Performing Arts Department. He is the director of the Huntsville Community Choir, an ensemble he founded in 1989. For 25 years he played double bass in the Trillium Dixie Jazz Band. In retirement, he enjoys writing and arranging music, he is a cantor at All Saints’ Anglican Church in Huntsville, and he continues to play bass and trumpet for many community-based projects.



Our Soloists

Amy Dodington, Soprano

With a voice “like crystal clear, tumbling water” that possesses exceptional sincerity and warmth, Amy Dodington (Hon. B.Sc.; B.Mus.) is a Toronto-based freelance soloist, recitalist, private music teacher and member of the Elmer Iseler Singers, a prestigious 20-voice, fully-professional choir. Amy’s moving performances in Bach, Handel and Mozart Oratorios and her eclectic solo recitals have earned her a loyal, enthusiastic following throughout Ontario and beyond. She has appeared often at the Festival of the Sound, as Jonathon in Brenda Margaret Muller’s children’s opera Jonathon’s Storm, and as a member of the Iselers. Amy has received numerous awards and scholarships, has shared a stage with Placido Domingo and performed under Maestro Helmuth Rilling in the home church of J.S. Bach in Leipzig, Germany. Her exceptional ensemble skills are frequently enlisted by choirs including The Cellar Singers and Soundstreams Choir 21. As a native of Port Carling, Muskoka, Amy is always pleased to have an excuse to return to beautiful Shield country, especially to sing.

Johnathon Kirby, Bass

“His total command of the stage made it impossible to look away from him” - (Opera Canada)
“...with virility in his sound and exhaustive energy in his movements...in this role [Figaro], his singing is the best I’ve heard” - (Schmopera) Johnathon Kirby is a Bass-Baritone from Newmarket Ontario who is building a national reputation for his vocal skill, stage presence and energetic enthusiasm for every project he is a part of. He went to Dalhousie University, The Glenn Gould School, and completed two years in the Calgary Opera Emerging artist program. He made his professional debut with Opera Nova Scotia and has returned for six seasons as a featured lead. Kirby has performed in numerous concerts and recitals; including The Messiah with The Whispering River Orchestra and Haydn’s The Creation as Raphael and Adam with The Festival Chorus in Calgary. With Calgary Opera, Kirby has performed such roles as Zaretsky in Eugene Onegin, Angelotti in Tosca and Don Alphonso in Cosi fan tutte.

Our Soloists

*C*eline Cascanette, Mezzo

Hailing from Parry Sound Ontario, Celine Cascanette began studying music at the age of five and it has since been her passion. Celine is a singer and voice teacher in Hamilton, Ontario. Described as a “warm and lovely mezzo”, Celine has been teaching students in Popular and Western Classical styles for over seven years while also having experience in Country music, Pop/Rock music, and Musical Theatre. Celine loves to perform in a variety of genres and is as comfortable singing with her guitar as she is in a gown. Most recently Celine has performed with the Masterworks Choir & Orchestra in Oakville, Chorus Hamiltons, Bach Elgar Choir in Hamilton, Hamilton Children’s Choir, and Whispering River Music in her hometown of Parry Sound. Celine completed her undergraduate studies at McGill University in Montréal in vocal performance where she studied with Dr. Tracy Smith-Bessette. Recently, Celine completed her master’s degree in vocal pedagogy at the University of Toronto under the supervision of Professor Lorna MacDonald.

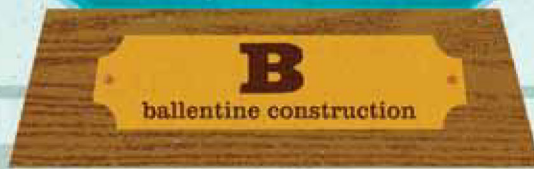
*F*abián Arciniegas, Tenor

Originally from Colombia (South America) Tenor Fabián Arciniegas is a Graduate of the MMus in Opera Performance program at the University of Toronto. He has established himself as a versatile and committed performer in Canada. He works regularly with Voicebox: Opera in Concert, Toronto Operetta Theatre and Essential Opera among other companies. Highlights of past seasons include Wagner’s *Götterdämmerung* with the Canadian Opera Company Chorus, Charles Darnay in the world premiere of Canadian composer Victor Davies and librettist Eugene Benson: *A Tale of Two Cities*, Monostatos in Mozart’s *Magic Flute*, Flavio in Bellini’s *Norma* with Opera by Request; Siebel in Loose Tea Theatre’s version of Gounod’s *Faust*; Lippo Fiorentino in Kurt Weill’s *Street Scene*; Roberto in *Vives` Bohemios* with Essential Opera.

IN PERFECT HARMONY



building holiday memories



BALLENTINECONSTRUCTION.COM

★ 705.746.1668 ★