

SONUS VOICES PRESENTS

NOT ANOTHER  
CHRISTMAS  
CONCERT



SONUS VOICES

Greg Rainville, Artistic Director

## Welcome Friends!

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It's a pleasure to share this evening with you as we mark the first performance of our first full concert season. We've been looking forward to presenting this program - one filled with surprise, warmth, and a fresh take on the music of the season - and we're delighted to have you with us.



Image by Matko Photography

Tonight's program leans into the joy, nostalgia, and sometimes chaos of the holidays, all while sidestepping the expected. You won't find the usual holiday fare repeated here; instead, we're exploring winter through fresh perspectives and stories that capture the humanity of this time of year - from tenderness and reflection to laughter and lightness. It's a concert that invites you to pause, to smile, and to rediscover the season in a new way.

To our audience, supporters, and community: thank you for being here and for continuing to support Sonus Voices. As a growing ensemble, every performance is made possible through your presence, encouragement, and enthusiasm. Your support helps us welcome new singers, expand our reach throughout the Greater Hamilton Area, and deepen the musical experiences we create together. We look forward to sharing this journey with you as the season unfolds.

We hope tonight's music brings a spark of joy to your season - and that you leave humming something you didn't expect.

Warm holiday wishes,  
Greg Rainville

## Our Talent

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### Tenor 1

Bradley Barnham, Matt Bean, Shawn Oakes

### Tenor 2

Andrew Inman, Paul Hawkins, Silas Chinsen

### Baritone

Chris Bee, Jordan Fang, Martin Kuplens-Ewart

### Bass

Doug Parsons, Jim Bourne, John Baxter, Marc Tyrell

### Collaborative Accompanist

Gary Forbes

### Artistic Director

Greg Rainville

# The Season Begins

Yuletide Fires

Diane Loomer 

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

Dan Forrest, arr.

The Darkest Midnight in December

Stephen Main

**Jordan Fang**

Here Comes the Light

Joseph Graham

Huron (Wendat) Carol

Andy Hillhouse, arr. 

Dana Lynn Seaborn, lyricist 

**Andrew Inman, violin**

Glow

Eric Whitacre

Noel

Steven Sametz

 Canadian

# And it Continues

Cold Moon

Nicholas Ryan Kelley 

Good News

Jay Althouse

~ 15 Minute Intermission ~

Jingle Bells

Michael McGlynn, arr.

Sonus Medley

Various, Greg Rainville 

Matt Bean, Doug Parsons, Jordan Fang, John Baxter

Let It Go

Mac Huff, arr.

Shawn Oakes

12 Days of Christmas

Straight No Chaser

Chris Bee, Andrew Inman, Shawn Oakes, Brad Barnham

 Canadian

# And it Ends

The Parting Glass

Traditional, The High Kings

Andrew Inman, Paul Hawkins, Doug Parsons

We Toast the Days

Linda Kachelmeier

Matt Bean, Greg Rainville

🍁 Canadian

Special thanks to Chris Bee for adding auxiliary percussion to our performance.



## Let Us Know What You Think!

Take a quick 1-minute  
survey about tonight's  
concert

[Take our Survey](#)

# About Sonus Voices

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Image by Matko Photography

Sonus has a passion for good music, great friends, and fulfilling experiences.

As a new ensemble we're looking to make our mark in the area's vibrant choral scene with the presentation of inspiring choral music at a high level, while creating unique collaborative opportunities for our performers, audiences, and community.

Sonus is the newest chapter of the previously named Canadian Men's Chorus, based in Toronto. The CMC was founded in 2010 with a mission to redefine tenor-bass choral music and secure its place within Canada's choral landscape. An amazing 12-year run culminated in a final performance at the Podium Choral Conference national festival in May 2022, presenting an all-Canadian program to a global audience.

Sonus will continue to build upon this mission with a renewed focus of bringing life to the best low-voice repertoire available. Our mandate places additional priority on Canadian works, and as major supporters of emerging composers Sonus will regularly commission and premiere new works. We've commissioned and premiered over 50 new Canadian works to date!

Ultimately our goal is to create an environment which enables each person to learn, be challenged, and be fulfilled by meaningful musical memories surrounded by collaborative and supportive partners in song!

## Sing with Us!

There's always a space for you in our choir.

[Fill out our audition form today.](#)

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# Why Sonus?

The name Sonus reflects what makes our ensemble special: the rich, resonant sonority of low voices that creates a sound unlike any other — something that continues to inspire and drive our musical journey.

It also comes from the Latin word for sound, a simple word with infinite possibilities, just like the voices that make up our ensemble.

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With Sonus, we celebrate not just what is heard, but the feeling and connection that sound makes possible.

# About Greg

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Greg Rainville is a dynamic Artistic Director, vocal coach, and music educator whose work is rooted in championing new Canadian music and building meaningful musical communities. With an extensive background spanning concert ensembles, church

music programs, live theatre, and private instruction, Greg is widely respected for his collaborative spirit and his commitment to fostering inclusive, accessible music-making. He is a sought-after guest Artistic Director and frequently leads workshops and masterclasses.

As Artistic Director of Sonus Voices (formerly the Canadian Men's Chorus), Greg champions the development and performance of new Canadian choral music. Under his leadership, the ensemble continues the spirit of innovation established by the CMC, which commissioned and premiered more than 50 Canadian works and appeared at the Podium National Choral Conference, Stratford Summer Music Festival, CentreSpace for the Arts, and the Muskoka Concert Association. Greg's work with the CMC is featured on Aaron Jensen's album *From Sea to Sea*.

Known for his imaginative and forward-looking approach to concert programming, Greg is often recognized for crafting performances that weave together compelling artistic narratives, highlight Canadian creators, and deepen the sense of connection between performers, audiences, and the broader community.

Greg previously served as Assistant Artistic Director of the Orpheus Choir of Toronto (under Robert Cooper), making his Roy Thomson Hall debut during his tenure. Notable guest conducting engagements include leading the top 100 high-school voices at the 2015 Area All-State NYSSMA Conference and directing the Canadian Ambassador Choir during their 2016 Australia tour as part of the United Nations Choral Festival Rhythms of One World. He currently serves on the Choirs Ontario Board of Directors, supporting the growth of choral singing across the province and beyond.

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# About Gary

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Along with his duties as accompanist to Sonus, Gary Forbes is the Director of Music at St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church (Leaside), and serves as accompanist to the instrumental programs at Brock University (St. Catharines). Gary also runs a private piano studio based in Oakville, and is an active freelance collaborative pianist throughout Southern Ontario and the GTA.



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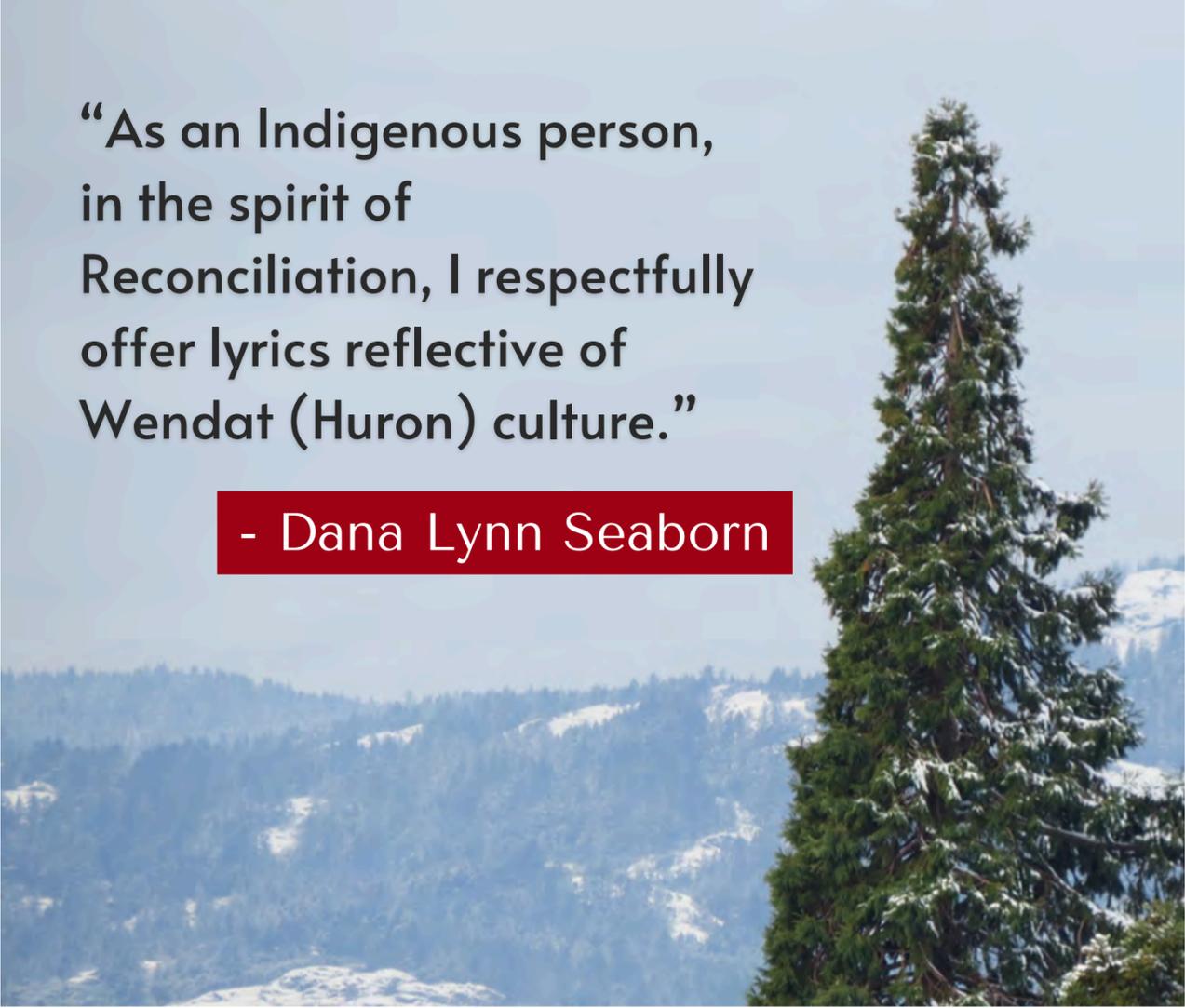
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Previously engaged as Accompanist to the Mississauga Children's Choir, Director of Music at Grantham United Church, and Director of Music for a variety of independent theatre companies throughout the Niagara Region, Gary has also worked closely with various choirs including the Niagara Men's Chorus, Chorus Niagara (Adult & Children's Choruses), Brock University Choruses, and Camerata Choralis.

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# Huron (Wendat) Carol

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“As an Indigenous person, in the spirit of Reconciliation, I respectfully offer lyrics reflective of Wendat (Huron) culture.”

- Dana Lynn Seaborn

The below is used with permission. Click [this link](#) to read more information about the lyricist and the full text from which these verses are selected.

We gather at midwinter dark to share this hallowed night.  
Within our longhouse, warm and dry, the fire glows with light.  
Our Elders sing a teaching song;  
it fills the night that seems so long:  
This is our sacred home, ‘neath heaven’s dome,  
shining stars proclaim the dawn.

A valiant Little Turtle rode a cloud up to the sky;  
she used the lightning to make fire, and  
made our Sun to shine.  
He journeys 'neath the world we see,  
returns to make the shadows flee.  
This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's  
dome,  
shining stars proclaim the dawn.

Rejoice! Have courage one and all! The stars  
shine overhead,  
the same stars that shone down upon a  
baby's humble bed.  
The infant grew to be a man;  
His words, like stars, light many lands.  
This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's  
dome,  
shining stars proclaim the dawn.



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**Today.**

# Cold Moon

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“A Christmas song for people who hate Christmas songs. This piece is about a sort of transformation, so the music gradually blossoms into something quite different from where it started. Will the speaker in the lyrics ever overcome their seasonal depression?”

- Nicholas Ryan Kelly

We lift a song against the winter's hush;  
We lift a glass against the looming cold.  
We lift a candle high,

A fading flicker on the longest night.

We carol only to the ringing dark.

(how the bells, sweet silver bells  
all seem to say 'throw cares away')

The cold moon clouds our steps in faded  
blue.

We speak of last year's resolutions failed  
and all our fragile hopes.

We tell our sorrows to the longest night  
and hear the echo in the ringing dark  
(how the bells, sweet silver bells...)

When the songs of good cheer drone dismally,  
When the sweet silver bells clang endlessly on,  
We will walk homeward under frozen stars  
And pause:  
Hearing only the north wind,  
Seeing only our shadows on the snow,  
Feeling only the wonder of the cold moon's  
glow.

And in another cold moon, we may find  
the peace we've sung so long about.  
May the waning dark attend our hopes this  
time.  
And may our candle burn  
a little brighter on the longest night.  
May we find new songs to sing.

Ira K. Murphy (Pseudonym of the composer)



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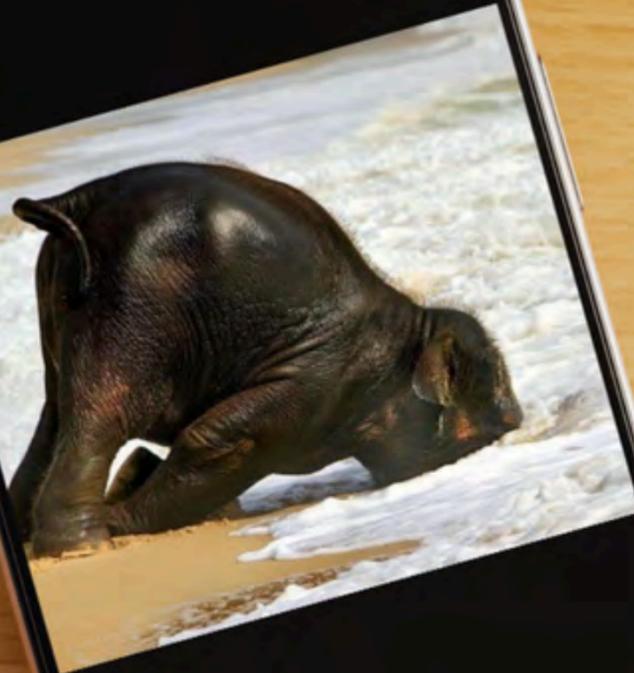
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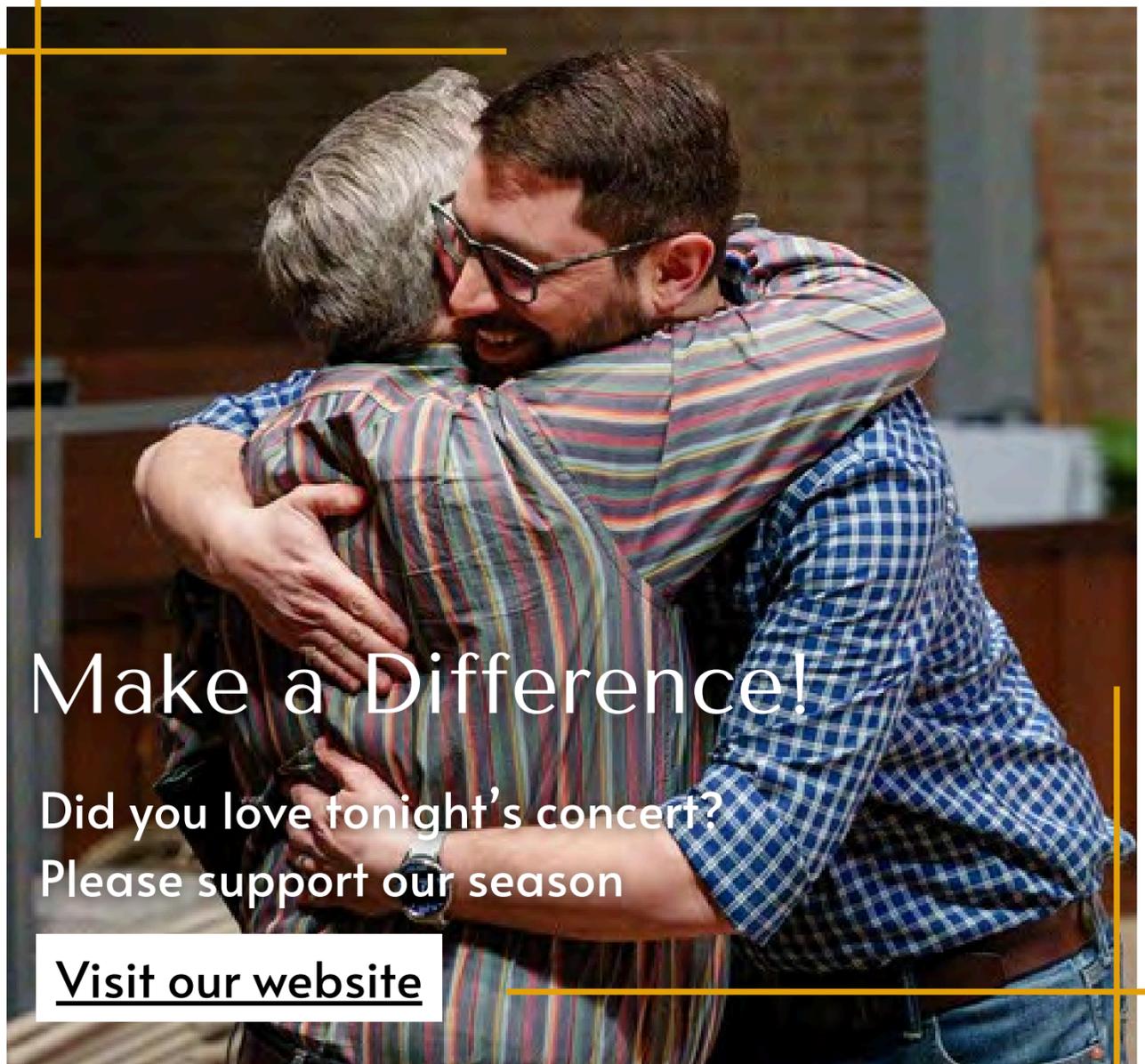
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Sonus extends warmest thanks to each of the following people for their part in making this concert happen:

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SONUS VOICES

Greg Rainville, Artistic Director