



toronto children's chorus
Zimfira Poloz, Artistic Director

CAN YOU see me?

Metropolitan United Church
October 26th, 2024 | 3:00pm



Welcome from the Artistic Director

We are thrilled to welcome you to this special concert, featuring our incredible Training Choirs (Miro, Spirito, Pasio, Anima, and Coro) along with Cantare, Chorealis, and our Choral Scholars (a self-directed ensemble).

“Can You See Me?” reflects the children’s deep desire to be seen and heard, as they express themselves through the transformative power of music. Their voices, like lights emerging from the shadows, will take you on a journey filled with magical and mystical sounds, evoking wonder and imagination. This diverse program, spanning both classical and contemporary pieces, is designed to captivate and inspire.

We are immensely grateful to Metropolitan United Church for hosting us today. A special thank you goes to Jamie Drake for adding layers of joy and beauty to our music with his exceptional percussion accompaniment. This is also our first concert with four new musicians joining our exceptional artistic team: Charissa Bagan, Associate Artistic Director, and new collaborative pianists Grace Ha, Claire Harris and Monique de Margerie.

Over the past six weeks, our young singers have worked tirelessly to prepare for today’s concert. For many, this will be their first-ever performance! Some of our youngest performers are just five years old, learning not only how to sing but also how to stand confidently, walk on risers, read solfege, and make new friends—building skills that extend far beyond the stage.

This afternoon, you’ll hear songs in English, Italian, and even Norwegian, demonstrating the children’s growth as global artists. At the Toronto Children’s Chorus, we believe that every child is an artist. Through our concert series this season, we embark on a journey of discovery:

Can You See Me? Can You Hear Me? Can You Feel It?

Our final piece today is “*I Can Be Me*”, inspired by the legacy of Mr. Rogers (*from Mister Rogers’ Neighbourhood*):

What can I bring to make this world better?

What can I do to make your heart sing?

What can I be to make your day brighter?

I can be me.

What can be more beautiful than for every child and adult to feel this way?

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to parents, families, volunteers, board members, and the Toronto community. Thank you for your unwavering support, trust, and belief in the Toronto Children’s Chorus. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey and for helping us nurture each child as an artist, unlocking their full potential.

Together, we are building a vibrant community and nurturing artistry in Toronto. Our singers not only grow as musicians but also represent Canada on some of the world’s most presti-

gious stages. With 47 seasons and 33 international tours completed, we have much to celebrate. From the visionary leadership of TCC founder Jean Ashworth Bartle to the remarkable work of Elise Bradley, our legacy has been shaped by excellence — and it would not be possible without your continued care and support.

With gratitude,

Zimfira Poloz
Artistic Director



Guest Artist

JAMIE DRAKE, PERCUSSION

Jamie Drake is a percussionist, drummer and composer, whose musical interests span from environmental chamber music to Motown, and who values collaboration and integrity. As a member of TorQ Percussion Quartet, he has performed across North America and as a featured soloist with the Toronto Symphony, Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, Niagara Symphony, Kingston Symphony, Kitchener Waterloo Symphony and the Buffalo Philharmonic, as well as numerous wind ensembles, and has premiered works by composers including Christos Hatzis, Dinuk Wijeratne and Nicole Lizée. Jamie regularly performs with orchestras and choirs across the GTA, and also serves as the percussionist for the Hamilton Children's Choir. Active in musical theatre, Jamie has played drums and percussion for Mirvish, Musical Stage Company, Soupepper, Young People's Theatre and Canadian Stage, and has played drums for singers including Ron Sexsmith, Jackie Richardson, Jully Black, Divine Brown and more. He received his Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Toronto, and currently serves as Assistant Professor of Percussion at the DAN School of Drama and Music at Queen's University.

CHORISTER INTERVIEW

Jarvis Tomassini, Head Chorister & Zara Muredda, Pasio Chorister

PASIO TRAINING CHOIR

I Wonder Donna Rhodenizer*

I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles John Kellette,
arr. Christine Donkin*

Judith Bean, conductor | Gergely Szokolay, collaborative pianist

ANIMA TRAINING CHOIR

hist whist Ruth Watson Henderson*

Child of the Universe Craig Cassils

Charissa Bagan, conductor | Claire Harris, collaborative pianist

HEAD CHORISTER SPEECH

Cecilia Liu, Head Chorister

CORO TRAINING CHOIR

Autumn Tints Norman Gilbert

Danza, Danza, Fanciulla Francesco Durante

Zimfira Poloz, conductor | Sheldon Rose, collaborative pianist

CORO TRAINING CHOIR & CHORAL SCHOLARS

Nightingale Jay Althouse

Zimfira Poloz, conductor | Sheldon Rose, collaborative pianist

CHORAL SCHOLARS

Kom! Monica Åslund

True Colors Tom Kelly & Billy Steinberg,
Lauren Lee, soloist

Programme *cont...*

CHORAL SCHOLARS *cont...*

Java Jive

Ben Oakland, arr. Kirby Shaw

Zimfira Poloz, conductor | Monique de Margerie, collaborative pianist

THANK-YOU MESSAGE

Zimfira Poloz, Artistic Director

Emmett Hishon, April Rose Manago & Ember Tam, Spirito Choristers

COMBINED CHOIRS

I Can Be Me

Andrew Bruhn

Zimfira Poloz, conductor | Monique de Margerie, collaborative pianist

Translations

VELKOMNE MED AERA

We welcome you in honour.
We will sit here in peace,
in God's peace,
our three neighbours.

DANZA, DANZA, FANCIULLA

Dance, dance, young girl to my song;
Dance, dance, gentle young girl to my song;
Twirl lightly and softly to the sound,
to the sound of the waves of the sea.
Hear the vague rustle of the playful breeze
that speaks to the heart with its languid sound,
and invites you to dance
without stopping, without stopping
that invites you to dance.
Dance, dance, gentle young girl to my song.