



toronto children's chorus  
Zimfira Poloz, Artistic Director

# Newsletter

September 13, 2024

## Dear TCC Community,

Welcome to our 47th Season! We are excited to share some thrilling updates from the Toronto Children's Chorus!

## STAFFING UPDATE

We're delighted to welcome **Charissa Bagan** as our new full-time Associate Artistic Director! Charissa brings a wealth of experience as a conductor, educator, and administrator. She will conduct **Anima** and **Cantare**, and we look forward to this new era of joyful, innovative performances.

Sadly, we bid farewell to **Nila Rajogopal**, who is launching a new music program at École secondaire Michelle-O'Bonsawin, and **Kelsey Taylor**, who joins the Canadian Children's Opera Company. Both have been incredible assets to TCC, and we wish them the best in their new roles.

We are also saying goodbye to pianists **Nicholas Wanstall** and **Terri Wu**. This season, Nicholas continues to be in high demand as a keyboardist and is also making more time and space to focus on composing. Terri has also decided to take a break from the TCC as she enjoys new time and space to consider the next steps in her career. However, we're excited to welcome three fantastic new collaborative pianists for 2024-2025: **Monique de Margerie** (Cantare & Main Choir), **Claire Harris** (Anima) and **Grace Ha** (Miro & Spirito).

In other exciting news, **Bahareh Ameri** will lead the new Grade 1 ensemble, **Miro**, and we welcome **Saloomeh Fassaie** as one of our KinderNotes instructors, bringing specialties in Orff, Kodaly as well as extensive teaching experience at the Royal Conservatory of Music Smart Start program and at Sistema Toronto.

### Returning artistic staff members include:

- **Judith Bean** – Pasio Conductor
- **Michael Denomme** – Main Choir Assistant Conductor
- **Dr. Darryl Edwards** – Vocal Coach and Consultant
- **Sheldon Rose** – Coro Collaborative Pianist & Composer
- **Jodie Sargent** – Main Choir Theory Instructor & Parent Volunteer Coordinator
- **Dakota Scott-Digout** – Main Choir & Chamber Choir Collaborative Pianist
- **Gergely Szokolay** – Pasio Collaborative Pianist
- **Meredith Wanstall** – Spirito Conductor & Musicianship Coordinator

# MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT TCC

We're proud to offer three exciting mentorship programs for aspiring musicians and educators:

## 1. **Vernon Douglas McCaw Memorial Fellowship**

In partnership with OISE, this fellowship provides full-time OISE Master of Teaching students with hands-on experience in music education at the TCC throughout the academic year.

## 2. **Assistant Conductor Mentorship**

**Alba Yuan Chan**, a DMA student in Choral Conducting at UofT, will work as an Assistant Conductor with the Main Choir under the guidance of Zimfira Poloz, gaining invaluable conducting and leadership experience.

## 3. **Choral Apprenticeship Program**

**Zoë Earle**, a recent TCC alum with promising musical talent, will assist with Main Choir rehearsals, lead sectionals, and gain valuable leadership skills throughout the season.

## MEET OUR BRAND NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are thrilled to announce the addition of three exceptional individuals to the TCC's Board of Directors. Their expertise and passion will be instrumental in reflecting the current needs of our choral community and supporting our ongoing growth.

### **Judith Ma, Director at OMERS Growth Equity**

Judith brings a wealth of financial expertise and strategic insight from her role at OMERS Growth Equity. Her dedication as our new treasurer will help us further our mission of fostering musical excellence and artistic growth.

### **Pam Greenstein, Senior Vice President of People and Culture at Peakhill Capital**

Pamela's extensive background in fostering organizational culture and community engagement as Senior Vice President of People and Culture at Peakhill Capital will be invaluable as we continue to inspire creativity and teamwork through music.

### **Eve Wiggins, Director of Transit for the City of Mississauga**

Eve's leadership in public service and community development as the Director of Transit for the City of Mississauga will bring a fresh perspective and strategic vision to our board.

We are incredibly excited about the future and grateful for the support of our community as we continue to grow and evolve. Together, we can make a profound difference through music.

#### **TCC Board of Directors:**

Shelly Lowe, Chair  
Maria McDonald, Secretary  
Judith Ma, Treasurer  
Nina Bilimoria Angelo  
Alexandra Koch  
Jordan Shapiro  
Leeanne Smart  
Leslie Stewart Rose  
Pam Tealake  
Eve Wiggins

#### **Ex-Officio**

Charlotte Burrage  
Zimfira Poloz

## Season Highlights.

### Save the dates:

#### Can You See Me?

Saturday, October 26, 2024  
Metropolitan United Church (56 Queen St E)  
3:00 PM

#### Songs of the Season with Toronto Children's Chorus

Sunday, December 15, 2024  
Roy Thomson Hall (60 Simcoe St)  
2:00 PM

#### Can You Hear Me?

Sunday, May 4, 2025  
Meridian Arts Centre (5040 Yonge St)  
3:00 PM

#### Chamber Choir Feature Concert

Saturday, June 21, 2025  
Eglinton St. George's United Church (35 Lytton Blvd)  
3:00 PM



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