

SOLICITUDE

DECEMBER 13 & 14, 2024

THE O'PEARS A Candle Burned

RUSSELL WALLACE ARR. SAM DABRUSIN Northern Lights
REBECCA DALE Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

SAUNDER CHOI Invitation to Love
KATE MEDCALF, LUCY SMITH, SOPRANOS

HUSSEIN JANMOHAMMED & RUSSELL WALLACE
Gatherings
JOCELYN MORLOCK Io, io

KATE MEDCALF, LUCY SMITH, SOPRANOS

ARR. LANE PRICE Silent Night
GLORIA WAN, TENOR

REENA ESMAIL Winter Breviary
1. We Look For You (Evensong)
2. The Year's Midnight (Matins)
3. The Unexpected Early Hour (Lauds)

RUSSELL WALLACE Keep the Light Burning
ARR. TROMBONE SHORTY O Holy Night
KATE MEDCALF, DANNY NAJJAR, STEVE MADDOCK, TRIO

ARR. MARIA THOMPSON CORLEY In the Bleak Mid-winter
GORDON LIGHTFOOT ARR. J. GRAMIT Song for a Winter's Night
STEVE MADDOCK, BARITONE

MUSICA INTIMA PERFORMS AND OPERATES ON THE STOLEN
TERRITORY OF THE COAST SALISH PEOPLES, INCLUDING
THE TERRITORIES OF THE x^wməθk^wə'yəm (MUSQUEAM),
skwxwú7mesh úxwumixw (SQUAMISH),
AND sə'lilwətaʔɬ (TSLEIL-WAUTUTH) NATIONS.

musica intima

Lee Clapp
Renee Fajardo
Jacob Gramit
Steve Maddock
Kate Medcalf
Danny Najjar
Lucy Smith
Risa Takahashi
Asitha Tennekoon
Gloria Wan
Patrick Zhu

Artistic Manager
Jacob Gramit

Operations Manager
Lucy Smith

Board of Directors

Troy Topnik, PRESIDENT
Katherine Evans, SINGERS REP
Brigid Lumholst-Smith, DIRECTOR
Dan McFaul, TREASURER

Are you enthusiastic about musica intima and passionate about decolonization in the arts? Talk to us about getting involved with our Board of Directors - now is the time you can help us make a difference! Introduce yourself tonight or email lucy@musicaintima.org!

SOLICITUDE is supported by the Province of British Columbia, and the BC Fairs, Festivals, and Events initiative.

musica intima GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF



Supported by the Province of British Columbia

“Snow is cold and covers everything; it dampens the sounds around us but it also reflects light. It does not take much light to illuminate a large area. Today, we may feel the darkness as winter represents the end of a cycle, but it also blankets and gives some rest to the earth and to the life around it. It also forces us to rely on each other.” It is this idea that our co-curator Russell Wallace ties to the word Solicitude - defined by Oxford as “care or concern for someone or something.” In this time of shorter days, colder temperatures, and potential isolation, we gather together, bring light into our homes, and rely on each others care to make it through the winter.

Throughout this program, music of light and music of compassion weave together. We open and close with candlelight - folk trio The O’Pears write a song of a candle flickering on the table while snow swirls outside, and the late Gordon Lightfoot brings us through the night into a new dawn as the fire dies and morning light fills our space. Familiar carols herald the coming of the light we associate with this time of year, and works by Wallace and Jocelyn Morlock remind us of the light all around us - either in the fire we gather around or in the sky we look to. Similarly, Reena Esmail’s “Winter Breviary,” a set of three miniatures based on Hindustani ragas, shows us our skies filled with light, colour, and nature. Keeping us firmly on the ground, Rebecca Dale’s setting of Robert Frost’s classic text is a lush depiction of woods lovely, dark, and deep - but as they fill with snow, Russell reminds us that snow reflects - dappling our evergreen Northwest forests with shafts of glowing light.

When you ask how old a person is in the Northern Státimcets language you would ask “k’winaszánucw máqa?” or “how many snows are you?”

Winters can be harsh and our lives are measured by how many winters one survives. RUSSELL WALLACE

Many of us gather with family or friends at this time of year. Traditional meals, annual parties, favourite concerts - each filled with familiar faces and generations of memories. Two pieces remind us, though - while “gathering” is a noun, the

A MESSAGE FROM ARTISTIC MANAGER *Jacob Gramit*

root is, of course, “gather” the verb. Care and concern for one community, be it your own or one which you are a guest in, are beautiful concepts - and the action they lead to is for us to gather - but who’s on the edges of those gatherings and how can we ensure everyone is welcomed in? The collaborative work, “Gatherings” by Hussein Janmohamed and Russell Wallace draws together musical and spiritual traditions of both composers, and shares them both with the singers and with you, the audience, our ‘thirteenth member.’

In “Invitation to Love,” Saunder Choir sets words of Paul Dunbar. “Come when the lights are bright with stars,” he writes, “Come in the night or in the day / Come, O love...”. Love is present when we all gather together - when all are welcome. This is our hope for you today, this season, and for the coming year; may our solicitude for each other guide us through the “winter’s drifting snows, and you are welcome, welcome.”

Join us for the rest of our 2024-2025 season...

DING DONG | DECEMBER 23 2024

an a cappella twist on a seasonal favourite!

WHERE YOU GO | MAY 2 2025

with choreographer Olivia C. Davies

CONFLUENCE | JULY 2025

curated by Teiya Kasahara

details at www.musicaintima.org

A Candle Burned

*The O'Pears (Lydia Persaud, Jill Harris, & Meg Contini)
text after Boris Pasternak*

It snowed and snowed the whole world over
It swept the world from end to end
A candle burned on the table.

The blizzard sculptured on the glass
designs of arrows and of whorls.
A candle burned on the table.

Distorted shadows fell upon the ceiling light.
Crossed arms. Crossed legs.

As during summer midges swarm
to beat their wings against a flame
Out in the yard the snowflakes
swarm to beat against the window pane.

All things vanished within the snowy white.
It snowed and snowed all through the months
and almost constantly
a candle burned on the table.

Northern Lights

Northern Lights uses vocables; a pan-Indigenous concept of singing without text, but using consistent syllables. In this case, the vocables are similar to those which would be used to represent the heartbeat of a round dance, which is the musical inspiration for the work. While the vocables don't have a specific textual meaning, they can be used to identify the region where songs come from, as different villages and peoples would use different regional vocables.

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Rebecca Dale / Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know,
his house is in the village though,
he will not see me stopping here,
to watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer,
to stop without a farmhouse near,
between the woods and frozen lake,
the darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake,
to ask if there is some mistake,
the only other sound's the sweep
of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely dark and deep,
but I have promises to keep,
and miles to go before I sleep,
and miles to go before I sleep.

'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening' by Robert Frost.

Copyright © 1923, 1969 by Henry Holt and Company. Copyright © 1951 by Robert Frost. Used by permission of Henry Holt and Company. All Rights Reserved. Music composed by Rebecca Dale © 2016, 2023 by Rebecca Dale. All Rights Reserved.

Invitation to Love

Saunders Choi / Paul Laurence Dunbar

Come when the nights are bright with stars
Or come when the moon is mellow;
Come when the sun his golden bars
Drops on the hay-field yellow.
Come in the twilight soft and gray,
Come in the night or come in the day,
Come, O love, whene'er you may,
And you are welcome, welcome.

You are sweet, O Love, dear Love,
You are soft as the nesting dove.
Come to my heart and bring it to rest
As the bird flies home to its welcome nest.

Come when my heart is full of grief
Or when my heart is merry;
Come with the falling of the leaf
Or with the redd'ning cherry.
Come when the year's first blossom blows,
Come when the summer gleams and glows,
Come with the winter's drifting snows,
And you are welcome, welcome.

Gatherings

Hussein Janmohammed / Russell Wallace

Allahu Akbar Laillaha Hu	<i>God is great</i>
Amma	<i>Good</i>
Shukran	<i>Thank you</i>

Úllusen doomoolth kau	<i>Can you gather us all together?</i>
-----------------------	--

Io, Io!

Jocelyn Morlock

Io, Io!
Eternally, in dulci jubilo!
No eye has ever seen,
No ear has ever heard
Such joy as ours - such joy as our joy.

Silent Night

Franz Gruber, arr. Lane Price

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

Winter Breviary

Reena Esmail / Rebecca Gayle Howell

I. We Look for You (Evensong – Raag Hamsadhwani)

Eventide, our single star,
One looking star, this night.
Next to me, the sparrow hen,
Two pilgrims small and bold.

Dusking hour, that lonely hour
The sky dims blue to grey.
Our forest road will fade,
We look for You.

Pines glisten wet with sleet,
She looks with me, we look for You.
Fog falls in, so close, my breath,
She looks with me, we look for You:
Great Silent One Unseen, we look for You.

Eventide, our single star,
One looking star, this night.
We look for You,
Forgiving light, our guide.

II. The Year's Midnight (Matins – Raag Malkauns)

The longest night is come,
A matins for beasts, they low, they kneel,
O, their sleep, their psalm sung.
A matins for trees, they slow, they stem,
O, their reach, their psalm won.

Hush, hush,
Can I hear them?
Can I hear what is not said?
Hush, hush,
Can I hear You?
Ev'ry need met.

To light, the path is dark,
Our star has gone.
Beneath my feet a year of leaves fallen, frozen, done.
I walk these woods,
The longest night is come,
Above me, the sparrow,
She brings our new seed home.
Brown true sparrow,
Take tomorrow home.

III. The Unexpected Early Hour (Lauds – Raag Ahir Bhairav)

Praise be! praise be!
The dim, the dun, the dark withdraws,
Our recluse morning's found.
The river's alive, the clearing provides
Lie down, night sky, lie down.

I feel the cold wind leaving, gone,
I feel the frost's relief.
My tracks in the snow can still be erased
In us, the sun believes.

Winter is, Winter ends,
So the true bird calls.
The rocks cry out, my bones cry out
All the trees applaud.
Ev'ry hard thing lauds.

Lie down, night sky, lie down.
I know the seeding season comes,
I know the ground will spring.
My fate is not night, I don't need to try
Behold! The dawn, within.

Horizon lights across my thoughts,
Horizon lines redraw.
Inside of my throat a rise of the gold
Inside my chest I thaw.

Winter is, Winter ends,
Nothing stays the same.
The moon strikes high,
The sun strikes high and
Now I hear your name:
Earth's Untired Change.

Praise be! praise be!
The unexpected early hour
grows the good light long.
Our darkness ends,
O mercy sun,
Trust can warm us all.

Begin again, again, again,
O may our day begin!

Keep the Light Burning

Russell Wallace

Sgwels tu7 i stsákwa, wan?
Keep the lights burning, okay?

p'an'tlhcán kelh múta7
I will return again.

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam, arr. W.G. Snuffy Walden/Trombone Shorty

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many New Orleans musicians were displaced across the US, and without work. Around the holidays, LA studio musicians started calling in sick, so that New Orleans musicians could make some extra money, and it was this story that inspired the appearance of Trombone Shorty and a band comprised of several displaced New Orleans horns (Mervin "Kid Merv" Campbell, Kirk Joseph, Roderick Paulin, Frederick Shepherd, and Stephen Walker) on the Aaron Sorkin show 'Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip'.

*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining.
It is the night. Long lay the world in darkness.*

*The thrill of hope, the world rejoices,
Yonder breaks a new and glorious morn,
O can you hear the thrill of hope,
Led by light, raise our voices...*

*Fall on your knees, hear the angel voices.
O night divine, O holy night.*

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst / Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), arr. Maria Corley

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty —
Jesus Christ.

Angels and Archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But only His Mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am? —
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part, —
Yet what I can I give Him, —
Give my heart.

Song for a Winter's Night

Gordon Lightfoot, arr. Jacob Gramit

The lamp is burnin' low upon my table top
The snow is softly falling
The air is still in the silence of my room
I hear your voice softly calling.

If I could only have you near
To breathe a sigh or two
I would be happy just to hold the hands I love
On this winter night with you.

The smoke is rising in the shadows overhead
My glass is almost empty
I read again between the lines upon each page
The words of love you sent me

If I could know within my heart
That you were lonely too
I would be happy just to hold the hands I love
On this winter night with you

The fire is dying
Now my lamp is growing dim
The shades of night are lifting
The morning light steals across my window pane
Where webs of snow are drifting

If I could only have you near
To breathe a sigh or two
I would be happy just to hold the hands I love
On this winter night with you; to be once again with you

*musica intima would not exist
without the unwavering support
of our most loyal donors - you!*

Music can create incredible experiences, and musica intima exists to create these moments - to foster human connection through the power of vocal music.

Your support of the ensemble's performance, outreach and community building is crucial.

musica intima is unique in many ways, but like all non-profit arts organizations, we are facing new and more severe fiscal challenges - challenges that threaten our continued creation and collaboration with artists from across Turtle Island. We love to make music, and the best part of that is sharing it with you - online, on a CD, or at a concert - but the fiscal realities of our little society are making that harder and harder. Last season, we performed 28 pieces by twelve Indigenous composers/creators a total of 101 times. Your support is needed to ensure this work continues.

*We are a small organization – your dollars go far! Part of what makes us unique in the Canadian choral landscape, and especially here at home is that **we don't have corporate sponsors, and our grant funding is a fraction of what many performers or presenters receive.** Despite this, we continue to produce ground-breaking art at home and across the country, with 85% of our budget devoted to the expenses of making music (the average among choral organizations in Canada being 64%). In this new reality, however, some of these groundbreaking projects are in jeopardy.*

***You know how special musica intima is** – there is no other professional ensemble in Canada that is created for the artists, by the artists - and you know how special the shared connection is when you join us for our performances. Help us continue to share that here, across the province, and across Turtle Island.*

Your financial gifts sustain us, and without your support, we cannot continue sharing the music that comforts, excites, and challenges you.

MUSICA INTIMA *Donors*

INTIMATES (\$1000 OR ABOVE)

Don Brooks
Martha Lou Henley
Brigid Lumholst-Smith & Andy Smith
Dan McFaul & Connie McElman
Elizabeth McLenehan
Lucy Smith & Jacob Gramit
Troy Topnik
David & Frieda Woodruff Gramit

PERFORMANCE CIRCLE

(TO \$499)

Janet Allwork
Alison Beale
Caitlin & Robert Beaupré
Bruce Beier
Jeremy Berkman
Sean Bickerton
Ulrike Boege
Ann Cameron & Martin Landmann
Jan Constantinescu
Stephen Cooke
Sam Dabrusin
Dandy Barber, Inc.
Oliver Dalton
Kirsten Daub
Shelagh Davies
Barbara Devlin
Kerry Dyer
Mary Eggertson
Dorothy Fairholm
Charles & Lucile Flavelle
Allen & Ruth Fowlis
Patricia French
Dale Gamble & Jane McFadgen
Karen Gelmon
John Gordon & Mirjana Galovich
Robin Grabell
Liz & Keith Hamel
Don Harder
Kim Hardy
Helder Henrique

ARTIST'S CIRCLE (\$500-\$999)

Sandra Campbell
Joanna Dundas
Lynn Kagan
J. Evan Kreider
Karen Mang Kennedy
Rob Mayhew
STRETCH Yoga
Lynn Woodruff

Elsie & Audrey Jang Fund
HELD AT THE VANCOUVER FDN.
Margo Keenan
Beryl Kirk
David Klaassen
Yolande Lafleur
Erica Levy
Jan Lowcock
Caitlin MacRae
Andrew & Liz Massil
Karen Matthews
John McBain
Coral McFadden
Harvey McLeod
Carolyn McKindred
Sumiko Nishizawa
David Pay & Brian Laberge
Carman J. Price
Kelly Rayter
Geordie & Frances Roberts
E. Jane Robertson
Deborah Rollins
Ingrid Rose
Emmanuelle Rousseau
Jim & Donna Simpson
Liz Tuck
Alex Volland
Cindy Weisbart
James Wright
Anonymous (4)

This list includes donations made between January 1, 2024, and December 12, 2024. If you detect any errors or omissions, please reach out to jacob@musicaintima.org