



explore • experience • expand

BEYOND symposium

→ *for the choral arts community*

May 26-27 | Treaty 1 Territory | Winnipeg, MB

A unique opportunity to exchange ideas, connect with colleagues,
challenge long-held ideas, and experience new ways to think about choir



**MANITOBA
CHORAL
ASSOCIATION**



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LiKeur

RIEL'S HEART OF THE NORTH
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The Métis peoples' past, present, and future are reimagined in this 21st century work that explores a little-known chapter of Louis Riel's life.

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Carmen

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With one hit after another, *Carmen* remains one of the most popular operas of all time!

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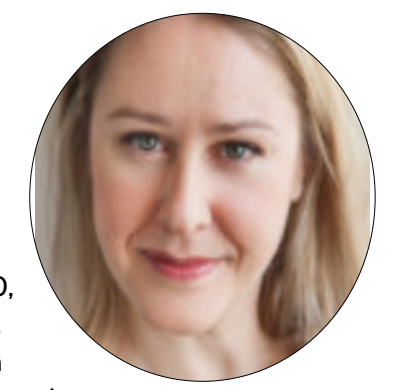
All performances at the Centennial Concert Hall

204-957-7842
mbopera.ca



Welcome to BEYOND!

We are thrilled that you have joined us for Manitoba Choral Association's first-ever symposium for the choral community! BEYOND is a unique opportunity to come together to exchange ideas, connect with colleagues, challenge long-held ideas, and experience new ways to think about choir.



Over the past few years, MCA has worked to create opportunities for cross-cultural sharing, to provide resources to reduce barriers to choral participation, and to continually incorporate more diverse perspectives in our programs. In 2020, we established an Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Committee (IDEA), planned workshops, hosted discussion forums, and shared resources with choirs in the areas of IDEA. The idea for BEYOND arose out of discussions with the IDEA committee and the province's choral community, and we are so pleased to finally see it come to fruition!

BEYOND is designed with choral leaders and learners in mind: here you will have space to listen, learn, and delve into important conversations around IDEA and choir. MCA has thoughtfully invited choral arts specialists from Manitoba, Canada, and the USA to collaborate and present on topics such as Indigenous protocols for choirs, embracing and encouraging cultural diversity in choir, decentralizing power structures, working with transgender voices, decolonizing the choir practice, challenging gender norms, accessibility for choirs, health and well-being, social justice, and more.



Our hope is that you walk away feeling challenged and empowered to make changes in your own choirs, arts organizations, and communities, and ultimately work to create safer spaces where singers from diverse backgrounds can find a place to belong in choir.

In the spirit of BEYOND and as a result of our IDEA work, MCA is also excited to launch the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Special Interest Group (IDEA SIG) next year. Moving to an SIG format represents a commitment on behalf of MCA to widen the scope of our discussions and community involvement. SIGs are a place to share knowledge, experiences, and ideas for best practices, as well as to evaluate our programs and offer solutions. An SIG is also a community that guides and supports, and we would like to invite you to become part of this exciting initiative in 2023-24.

MCA exists to support, strengthen, and celebrate the choral arts in Manitoba. We do this by providing opportunities for all Manitoba singers, singing groups, and choral leaders to experience and enjoy choral music through valuable programs, resources, and publications. Our organization thrives because of people like you who attend and support our workshops and events: leaders in our community who sing, conduct, study, and govern choral and musical arts organizations. We hope that you will take some time this weekend to learn ways you can get involved in MCA's work.

Again, welcome to BEYOND. Whether you are attending in person or virtually, we are glad you have decided to EXPAND, EXPLORE, and EXPERIENCE your arts practice with us this weekend!

Dr. Catherine Robbins & Jenny Steinke-Magnus
BEYOND Committee Co-Chairs
Manitoba Choral Association





OL1 - 500 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N2
204-942-6037 | info@mbchoralassociation.ca | www.mbchoralassociation.ca

Manitoba Choral Association is grateful for the opportunity to work on lands covered by treaties 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5; the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininiwak, Anishiniwak, Dakota, and Dene Peoples; and the homeland of the Red River Métis Nation. We acknowledge our responsibility to keep reconciliation and collaboration at the heart of all we do.

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The BEYOND Symposium was made possible thanks to funding and sponsorships from:



Manitoba Arts, Culture & Sport in Community Fund

Manitoba Arts Accessibility Fund

BEYOND symposium

— for the choral arts community

Schedule

FRIDAY - MAY 26

- 4:30 Registration, Mingle, & Refreshments
- 5:30 Welcome Song & Gratitude Song Project
- 6:45 Break
- 7:00 Full Body Forward! Pt I
- 9:00 End of Day 1

SATURDAY - MAY 27

- | | |
|--|--|
| 8:30 Registration, Mingle, & Refreshments | 2:00 Workshop on First Nations Traditional Singing |
| 9:00 Full Body Forward! Pt II | 3:00 Choir as a Gender-Affirming Space |
| 10:00 Sound, Listening, and Group Creativity | 4:00 Collaborative Songwriting with your Choir |
| 11:00 Accessibility for Choirs | 5:00 Dinner (not provided) & Travel Time |
| 12:00 Lunch (provided) | 7:00 Closing Event (St. Norbert Arts Centre) |
| 1:00 Moving Beyond "Indigenous Inclusion" in Music | 10:00 End of Day 2 |



CHORALFEST

November 13-22, 2023

Manitoba's annual non-competitive festival that provides choirs of all levels and styles the opportunity to work with choral specialists from across the continent

CHORAL SPECIALISTS

SENIOR HIGH & COMMUNITY CHOIRS
Dr. Adam Con, Michelle Chzyk, Philip Lapatha, Kristel Peters

EARLY & MIDDLE YEARS CHOIRS
Nedra Francis, Janna Reid

VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLES
Christine Guter, Jamond McCoy, Karly Epp

REGIONAL CLINICS
Dr. Elroy Friesen, Dr. Catherine Robbins



MB SINGS

February 2-4, 2024

Singers from across Manitoba come together for an inspiring weekend of music and community-building with accomplished guest conductors from across the country

GUEST CONDUCTORS

ADULT CHOIR
TBA

SENIOR HIGH CHOIR
Melanie DeMore

JUNIOR HIGH CHOIR
Sonya Williams

Formerly Provincial Honour Choirs



WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

2023-2024

- Reading Sessions
- Networking Events
- Member 101
- Choir 101
- Sing-alongs
- IDEA Corner
- Intra-Provincial Meetings
- INSPIRE: Youth Leadership Camp

And more!



Collaborators



Jordan Bighorn

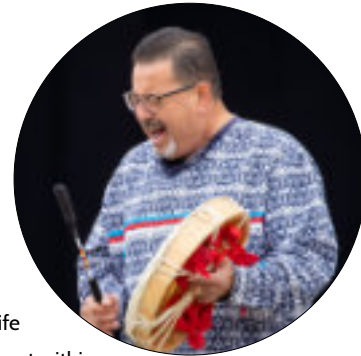
Traditional Drummer & Singer (Winnipeg, MB)

Jordan Bighorn was born in Seattle to Jacob and Deloria Bighorn. He is of Lakota heritage from the Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux community. He is a husband and father to four children, Co-Director of a nonprofit community development organization, volleyball coach, and anchors it all in his devotion to the Bahá'í Faith. He cherishes any opportunity to work for the betterment of his community, or wherever he finds himself. He is an avid volleyball player and has coached several volleyball teams for Manitoba at the North American Indigenous Games.

Cory Campbell

Traditional Drummer & Singer (Winnipeg, MB)

Cory was raised in Winnipeg's North End and was exposed to great music through his parents and extended family. His first experiences with traditional singing, as part of his cultural exploration, helped him find his voice and connect to his spirituality in a profound way. He has been blessed with opportunities to perform with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Dead of Winter (formerly Camerata Nova), and the University of Manitoba Concert Choir. He has also performed with various school choirs in and around Winnipeg as part of his passion for helping young Indigenous people find their own voice as an expression of pride in their heritage. Singing at ceremony is one of the biggest ways Cory is able to engage in self care. For Cory, singing hard is like having a really good cry! On a personal note, Cory enjoys life with his beautiful wife and his two foster children, and spends time with his 10 grandchildren. Cory is a very active participant within the spiritual community in and around Winnipeg and abroad. He frequently lends his voice to various activities, including ceremonies and celebrations. Currently, Cory is Co-director of Neecheewam Inc., a community-based organization designed to meet the unique and individual needs of All Nations youth who require safe care. This is achieved through a holistic approach that encourages a sense of positive self-worth through emotional, physical, spiritual, intellectual, and social growth.



Melanie DeMore

Vocal Activist (San Francisco, CA)

Melanie DeMore is a 3-time Grammy nominated singer/composer, choral conductor, music director and vocal activist who believes in the power of voices raised together. In her presentations, DeMore beautifully brings her participants together through her music and commentary. DeMore facilitates vocal and stick pounding workshops for professional choirs, community groups as well as directing numerous choral organizations across the U.S., Canada and beyond. She is a featured presenter of SpeakOut!-The Institute for Social and Cultural Change, works with everyone from Baptists to Buddhists, and was a founding member of the Grammy-nominated ensemble Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir. She became Music Director for Obeah Opera by Nicole Brooks as part of the Luminato Festival in 2019. She is a charter member of Kate Munger's Threshold Choirs and conducts song circles with an emphasis on the voice as a vessel for healing. In her own words: "A song can hold you up when there seems to be no ground beneath you".



Doug Friesen

Arts Educator & Musician (Toronto, ON)

Doug Friesen is a teacher and musician based in Toronto. Over the last 15 years, he has worked with teachers, students, and musicians about how listening and sound can engage creativity and agency. Doug is working on a PhD on sound and listening pedagogies and he has taught public secondary and postsecondary music courses at different schools, including University of Toronto. As a musician, Doug has played with many artists, including Selina Martin, Kael Reid, and Paul Linklater.



Collaborators



Roan Regan & Caleb Rondeau

Choral Singers & Students (Winnipeg, MB)

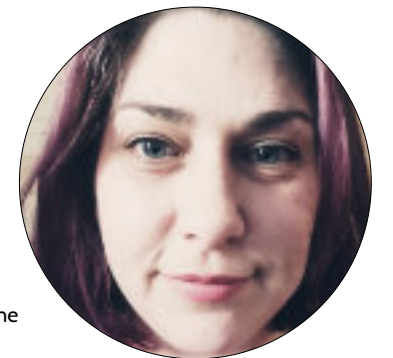
Roan Regan (he/him) is a student at the University of Winnipeg majoring in Filmmaking and English. He has been a part of the Winnipeg choral scene since elementary school, taking part in divisional and in-school choirs. Most recently, Roan has been a member of the community choir NUOVOCE. Art making in many forms has been a part of Roan's life since birth. His joy of music has withstood the test of time in large part to exceptional music educators and dedicated friends along the way. Roan has been pursuing medical transition for over a year now, having just recovered from a gender-affirming surgery in March. Roan believes that arts education can bridge a gap for many trans students, providing a safe space for trans folks of all ages.

Caleb Rondeau (he/they) is a student at the University of Manitoba currently obtaining his Bachelor of Music - Music Education degree. Caleb showed great commitment to choral singing early on, taking part in concert choir and vocal jazz at Sturgeon Heights Collegiate as well as the SJASD Senior Divisional Choir under the direction of Avonlea Armstrong-Green. He currently sings with the University of Manitoba Singers under the direction of Dr. Elroy Friesen, as well as NUOVOCE with Justin Odwak and Sarah Sommer. Recently, he made his professional choir debut with Dead of Winter, performing Andrew Balfour's *Notinikew* at the Place des Arts in Montreal. A fun fact about Caleb is that he only joined choir for the pizza party in elementary school. Living proof that some recruitment strategies really work!

Jenel Shaw

Executive Director, Arts AccessAbility Network MB (Winnipeg, MB)

Jenel Shaw is a self-taught visual artist. Her artistic focus is learning new ways to craft and explore artistic expression. Jenel graduated with her masters in Disability Studies from the University of Manitoba. Her dissertation, "An Autoethnological Study of Art as a Tool of Empowerment", examined her own experiences with mental illness and disability art. Jenel is a passionate advocate for the disability community, with a focus on accessibility in the arts. Jenel is the executive director of Arts AccessAbility Network Manitoba, the liaison director for the Manitoba Cultural Society of the Deaf and the Co-Chair of the Manitoba Artist-Run Centres Coalition.



Walking Wolf, Ray "Coco" Stevenson

Traditional Drummer & Singer (Winnipeg, MB)

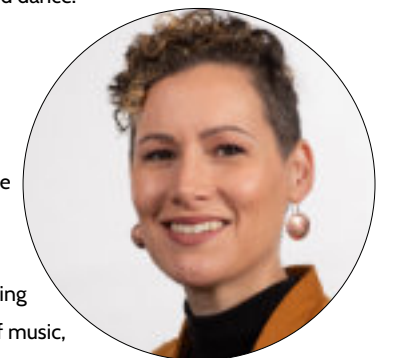
Walking Wolf, Ray "Coco" Stevenson, is a well-known Traditional Indigenous singer and drummer of both Ojibway and Cree background. He says the drum is a way of life for him and keeps him on the right path. Home for Ray is Winnipeg in Treaty One Territory where he was born and raised. Stevenson has released seven original albums of his own compositions over the years and has performed at countless Manitoba events with numerous groups in the city including the award-winning bands Eagle & Hawk, Indian City, and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. He currently facilitates powwow clubs at both the University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba, and is often found in schools and at community engagements educating people of all ages on Indigenous song and dance.



Nicole Stonyk

Graduate Student, University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB)

Nicole Stonyk is a Métis-Ukrainian-Cree woman born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She is the daughter of a 60's scoop survivor and comes from the Demeria/Desmarias of Lac du Bonnet/White Mud, Manitoba. She also belongs to the Marchands and acknowledges her Cree ancestors from Norway House and Polish/Ukrainian family. She is a graduate student in Indigenous Studies at the University of Manitoba and holds undergraduate degrees in both music and Indigenous studies. Her research combines her skills as a classically trained pianist/musician to look at ways of decolonizing Western forms of musical performance and connections of Indigenous relationality between interdisciplinary themes of music, language, and aesthetics.



Sessions

Gratitude Song Project

Cory Campbell, Traditional Drummer & Singer
Friday, May 26 - 5:30pm

Join Traditional Anishinaabe drummer and singer Cory Campbell as he teaches his original song, *Gratitude*. The song is dedicated to reconciliation and healing and was originally commissioned by the U of M Concert Choir. It has been gifted to all Manitoba singers and is published through a series of videos on the MCA resources page. It expresses a spirit of profound thanks in the languages of the Traditional Peoples of Manitoba: Anishiniwak, Dakota, Dene, Ininiwak, Anishinaabeg, and the Red River Métis Nation. Cory will relate his own understandings as well as teachings that have come to him in conversation with Language Keepers as he composed the song. Attendees can then bring this song to their choirs with a deeper understanding of the intentions behind the projects and connect with each other, song-maker to singer, human to human.

FULL BODY FORWARD!

Melanie DeMore, Vocal Activist
Friday, May 26 - 7:00pm & Saturday, May 27 - 9:00am

These sessions will speak to those who have longed to raise their voices with power, determination and energy. Participants will learn songs from various vocal and communal traditions and how to sing from and with their whole selves. Through a series of vocal, verbal and physical warm-up techniques, participants will learn how to fire up their inner and outer voices. These sessions will help revitalize and inspire you to sing from the inside out. Whether yours is a choir that specializes in traditional choral singing or Gospel and everything in between, Full Body Forward! will take you to the next level.

Sound, Listening & Group Creativity: Exercises Games & Practices

Doug Friesen, Arts Educator & Musician
Saturday, May 27 - 10:00am

Together, we'll try out exercises and games for listening and sounding that encourage creativity and improvisation in groups. We will think about how these practices might help us think beyond some of our defaults and what role they might play in breaking up the colonial patterns that are still often at the centre of institutional music education and choral practices.

Accessibility for Choirs

Jenel Shaw, Executive Director, Arts AccessAbility Network Manitoba
Saturday, May 27 - 11:00am

Join Jenel Shaw, executive director of Arts AccessAbility Network Manitoba, as she discusses ableism and the steps you can take to create a more accessible experience at choral events. This talk will cover accessibility considerations for the Deaf, Blind, and Physically Disabled, and those diagnosed with intellectual disabilities. Learn how you can be an ally to the Deaf and disabled community! Note: ASL-English interpretation will be provided for this session.

BEYOND
symposium
— for the choral arts community

Sessions

Moving Beyond “Indigenous Inclusion” in Music

Nicole Stonyk, Graduate Student, University of Manitoba
Saturday, May 27 - 1:00pm

Looking around the concert scene, you may have noticed a large uptick in Indigenous performances, ranging from insertion of Indigenous performances into concert programs to guest Indigenous artists to full-scale Indigenous-based productions. Many concert programs even claim acts of reconciliation as their motivating factor. How can reconciliation be measured? How might reconciliatory acts be perpetuating harm? What would it mean to move beyond the performance as an “end product”? Perhaps these questions might relate not the music itself but instead the way we engage with it. This talk offers ways in which to (re)think and (re)engage in the music process while expanding dialogue towards transformative change of action.

Educational Workshop on First Nations Traditional Singing

Ray “Coco” Stevenson, Traditional Drummer & Singer
Saturday, May 27 - 2:00pm

Join Walking Wolf, Ray “Coco” Stevenson as he shares Traditional Teachings regarding the significance and history of various song forms. Songs are sung in ceremony for healing and for celebration. Some songs honour individuals at events and acknowledge different traditional roles and responsibilities. As Coco says, “There is a song for everything. For everything and everyone that lives on Mother Earth.” All participants will learn an original song of Coco’s in the workshop.

Choir as a Gender-Affirming Space

Roan Regan & Caleb Rondeau, Choral Singers
Saturday, May 27 - 3:00pm

Roan and Caleb will share their choral experiences as a jumping off point to allow attendees to reflect on gender in the context of choral singing and how to support gender diverse singers in choir. Join us to discuss topics such as gender diversity, avoiding the use of gendered language, challenging gendered performance attire, and more.

Collaborative Songwriting: Writing Songs with your Choir

Doug Friesen, Arts Educator & Musician
Saturday, May 27 - 4:00pm

In this session we will explore an approach to collective songwriting with your choirs. We will make use of a resource created by Doug and Paul Linklater for the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall. With your participation, Doug will show you how to write chord progressions, lyrics, and how to put them all together into a song.

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Closing Event

Saturday, May 27
7:00pm-10:00pm

Join colleagues and BEYOND session collaborators for an event wrap-up party at the St. Norbert Arts Centre!

There will be music-making, lively discussion, and time to socialize over food and drink around the fire, the SNAC property, and the monastery ruins. A cash bar will be available but all attendees will receive one complimentary drink ticket.

Please dress for the weather!



Music makes our community more vibrant.

ACU invests in organizations and events that help build a thriving arts community, like the Manitoba Choral Association's (MCA) BEYOND event.



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Head to our website for more details!

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Nancy Gomes Fast
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Kimberly Harms
Vic Hooper
Janet Isaac
Jennifer Lang
Peter & Stella Maruca
Sue McIntosh
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Morna-June Morrow
Tim Preston
Scott Reimer
Ed Reynolds
Margot Sim
Jenny Steinke-Magnus
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 A choir for every voice

Manitoba Choral Association is grateful for program and operational funding from:



new PROGRAM for 2023

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL AESTHETICS



JUNE 4 - 6
2023

Thanks to the generous support of the John and Elaine Andrist Charitable Trust and the Manitoba Arts, Culture, and Sports in Community Fund, program tuition and meals are free for all participants. Call our office to register today! 701-838-8472

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