



MANITOBA  
CHORAL  
ASSOCIATION



# MB SINGS

40TH ANNIVERSARY FINALE CONCERT

Sunday, February 4, 2024 | 3:00 pm

Portage Avenue Church, Winnipeg, MB



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harmony project



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# MB SINGS

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



### Welcome to the MB Sings Finale Concert!

On behalf of Manitoba Choral Association, welcome to the 2024 MB Sings Finale Concert! We are thrilled that you have joined us for this very special 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary rendition of MB Sings (though many of you may also know the program as Provincial Honour Choirs, which it was called for 38 of its 40 years!).

Today we are joined by local dignitaries, choral enthusiasts, family, friends, and past conductors, singers, and volunteers of the program. Maybe you have attended the finale concert every year for 40 years, or maybe you are joining us for the very first time. Either way, we welcome you and invite you to enjoy everything that this one-of-a-kind program has to offer!

Over 230 singers from across the Singing Province and beyond will take to the stage today to perform songs they have only just learned this weekend during two days of intensive rehearsals with our amazing guest conductors. The choirs have worked hard to present today's concert for our audience. Besides our three wonderful choirs, we are grateful today to have Jordan Bighorn with us to open the concert with music and reflections. We are also excited to have Ace Burpee here to emcee the concert!

MCA exists to support, strengthen, and celebrate the choral arts in Manitoba. We do this by providing opportunities for Manitoba singers, singing groups, and choral leaders to experience and enjoy choral music through valuable programs, resources, and publications. MB Sings is MCA's longest-running and most inclusive program, offering the opportunity for singers of all ages and ability levels to come together for an incredible musical experience.

Midway through the program you will have the opportunity to support MCA's program bursary fund to give youth and community members from equity-seeking groups the chance to participate in MB Sings and other MCA programs. With your financial support, we can continue to keep all Manitobans singing for many years to come with "a voice for every choir, and a choir for every voice"!

Whether you are joining us in-person or virtually today, thanks again for being here and enjoy the show!

Jenny Steinke-Magnus  
Executive Director  
Manitoba Choral Association



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## PREMIER OF MANITOBA

Room 204  
Legislative Building  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8  
CANADA

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER**

*On behalf of all Manitobans, it is my honour to welcome those attending the Manitoba Choral Association's Manitoba Sings 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Finale Concert.*

*For decades, the Manitoba Choral Association has brought the people of our province together, with beautiful performances, and opportunities for young people across Manitoba. The MCA is a deeply valuable part of our arts and culture sector, and we are grateful for the work they have done to shape our province.*

*Thank you to MCA for all your hard work over the past 40 years and thank you to all attending and supporting the arts. Enjoy celebrating this significant milestone!*



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wab Kinew'.

***The Honourable Wab Kinew  
Premier of Manitoba***





## Mayor's Message

On behalf of the City of Winnipeg, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the Manitoba Sings 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Finale Concert.

The concert brings together singers of all ages and abilities, creating an exciting evening of diverse and engaging performances.

I would like to thank the board, staff and volunteers at the Manitoba Choral Association for their hard work putting together this concert and bringing choral music to Winnipeg audiences.

My best wishes for a successful concert. I hope all attendees have a memorable experience and enjoy the wonderful singing.

Sincerely,

Scott Gillingham  
Mayor  
City of Winnipeg





## Minister of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism

Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs

Minister responsible for the Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation

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Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8 CANADA

### Message from the Minister

It is my pleasure as Minister of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism to welcome you all to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MB Sings presented by the Manitoba Choral Association.

Since being established, MB Sings, formerly known as Provincial Honour Choirs, has provided Manitoba's choral singers with a unique opportunity to perfect and showcase their talents. Accessible to participants of all skill levels and different age groups, the program brings together upwards of 300 singers from all corners of Manitoba for a weekend of intensive workshops overseen by respected guest conductors from across the continent. The event, which culminates with a highly anticipated public performance, exemplifies what can be achieved when Manitobans unite their voices in service to a common purpose.

Congratulations to the Manitoba Choral Association for over four decades of fostering choral arts and enriching our province's arts community. Thank you to the volunteers, participants, staff members, audience members and sponsors who continue to make MB Sings an annual cornerstone event for Manitoba's choral singers. On behalf of my colleagues in the Manitoba Legislature, I wish you all a fantastic weekend immersed in song and a memorable MB Sings 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

**Honourable Glen Simard**  
**Minister of Sport, Culture, Heritage and Tourism**



**Manitoba** 



# 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. We acknowledge our responsibility to keep reconciliation and collaboration at the heart of all we do.

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Nancy Gomes Fast, Director

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Shayla Davidson  
Nancy Gomes Fast  
Janet Isaac-Martens  
Katrina Lengsavath  
Jack Roeder  
David Sawatzky  
Sonya Williams

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Manitoba Choral Association's programs & operations  
are funded with support from:



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Manitoba Choral Association is grateful to the individuals, organizations, and businesses for their support and involvement in this year's MB Sings!

Roberta Landreth for t-shirt, hoodie, program cover, and banner designs

Dave's Quick Print for program printing and banner production

St. James-Assiniboia School Division for providing choral risers

Bear Clan Patrol Inc. for providing community support

Darryl Neustaedter Barg for videography

Amy Zinn for photography

Long & McQuade for instrument and equipment rentals

103.1 Virgin Radio, Golden West, and Classic 107 for providing media promotion

The staff and students of Gordon Bell High School for hosting rehearsals

The staff and members of Portage Avenue Church for hosting the Finale Concert

Ace Burpee for emceeing the Finale Concert

Lisa O Catering, Goodies Bake Shop, and Cocoabeans for providing reception refreshments

Stephen Cocks for piano tuning

The section leaders: Larissa Johnson, Shayla Davidson, Hailey Legary, Jackson Hacault, Luke Munchinsky, Amanda Stegmaier, Michelle Chyzyk, Travis Fick, and Valerian Niessen

The conductors, collaborative pianists, instrumentalists, singers, and their families & friends

The MB Sings Committee and all of the volunteers who have made the weekend such a success!



## THANK YOU

to our generous 2024 MB Sings sponsors



SAT  
MAR 9  
2024

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HORIZON

BLUESTEM

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# PROGRAM

## MB SINGS

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Finale Concert

#### Master of Ceremonies

Ace Burpee

#### The Lakota Flag Song

*An honour song used to open gatherings and ceremonies in acknowledgment of the Creator*

Jordan Bighorn

#### Greetings on Behalf of the Premier of Manitoba

Logan Oxenham – MLA for Kirkfield Park

#### Junior Choir

Sonya Williams – Conductor

Kim Lapatha – Piano

Obwisana.....Victor C. Johnson

*(The rock has crushed my hand, Grandma.)*

She's Like the Swallow.....Craig Cassils

Hill and Gully.....Jamaican Folk Song

*Vincent Williams – Guitar*

Cuckoo!.....Benjamin Britten

Tres canciones de los elementos.....Victor C. Johnson

*(Three Songs about the Elements)*

#### I. Escuchar al viento

*Listen to the wind blowing through the night, breathing peace to all.*

#### II. La lluvia está cayendo

*The rain is falling, falling over the earth.*

#### III. ¡Fuego!

*Fire! Fire! See the red glow. See the orange flame!*



# PROGRAM

## MB SINGS

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Finale Concert

#### Senior Choir

Melanie DeMore – Conductor  
Jackson Hacault – Rehearsal Pianist

Say, Say Yes!.....Melanie DeMore

Sing 'Til the Power of the Lord Come Down.....Ysaye Barnwell  
adapt. Melanie DeMore

*Collection of 4 Spirituals*

Pass the Sack & 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Video  
In support of MCA's Bursary Fund



#### Adult Choir

Scott Leithead – Conductor  
Bryan LeGrow – Piano

I'll Be on My Way.....Shawn Kirchner

Wieglied.....Franco Prinsloo

Sikirileke/Koloi.....Sabelo Mthembu

*Traditional SeSotho Folk Song*

Sing Together!.....Nico Rhodes

Song for Justice.....Kim André Anderson

Slack Jaw.....Sylvan Ezzo/Jenna Baumgartner

#### Mass Choir

Lead with Love.....Melanie DeMore

Melanie DeMore – Conductor  
*Please sing with us as you are able!*

#### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception

*Please join us downstairs for some light refreshments following the concert  
to celebrate 40 years of MB Sings!*





## GUEST CONDUCTORS & ARTISTS



### **MELANIE DEMORE (Oakland, CA, USA)**

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 Toronto and will be touring to

South Africa with the company. She is a charter member of The Threshold Choir 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."



### **SCOTT LEITHEAD (Edmonton, AB)**

Scott Leithead is the founder and Artistic Director of Edmonton's Korora Choir Association and TIME Association. He has been invited to conduct provincial and state honour choirs on twenty-five occasions and he has presented workshops in North America and beyond. Notable appearances include: adjudicating the Tampere International Festival in Finland; conducting the 2013, 2015-2019 Ellison Canadian Honour Choir; and headlining the 2017 University of Toronto Summer Conducting Symposium. He has adjudicated both the ACCC National Competition for Amateur Canadian Choirs and the Kathaumixw International Choir Festival (2014 and 2016). Under his direction, Korora was the winner of both the 2015 CBC National Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs and both the 2015 and 2016 Canadian National Music Competition.

In the summer of 2019, Korora was invited to perform at the IFCM World Choral Expo in Portugal, where they represented Canada on the world stage. Also in 2019, Korora was featured on an episode of CTV's "The Amazing Race Canada". Scott has a passion for music from southern Africa, and he has been invited to work with choirs in South Africa and Namibia on numerous occasions. Scott's passion for innovative and unique choral music experiences has shaped the direction of the Korora Choir Association. Scott is a longtime member of the advisory committee for the Canadian Rocky Mountain Music Festival and the Edmonton, Kelowna and Whistler Cantando Festivals. Scott was awarded Choir Alberta's top honour, the Richard S. Eaton Award, in 2015. He also received Edmonton's Salute to Excellence award in 2016. He has also been awarded the Syncrude Award for Innovative Direction.

## GUEST CONDUCTORS & ARTISTS



### **SONYA WILLIAMS (Winnipeg, MB)**

Sonya Williams, the proud daughter of Jamaican-born parents Vincent and Elnor, was immersed in music from childhood. Music being an important part of her family and culture, Sonya pursued post-secondary studies and holds Bachelor degrees in both Arts and Education. Before moving into school leadership, Sonya taught choir in Winnipeg public schools for 18 years with a focus on building community and empowering the youth in her care to be agents of change. In addition to facilitating school choral programs, Sonya has served as a clinician, adjudicator, teacher, and conductor for various workshops, festivals, churches, camps, and choirs. Currently serving as one of the vice-principals at Grant Park High School, she is continuing her own learning pursuing graduate studies at Brandon University, using the arts as a means to research and share learning, and will graduate with a Masters in Education.

Sonya is blessed to have the ever-continuous love and support of her family and is also the proudest aunt to the most delightful nephew and niece. Sonya is grateful for the opportunity to serve in the choral community as a guest conductor to the Junior Choir at Manitoba Sings 2024.



### **JORDAN BIGHORN (Winnipeg, MB)**

Jordan 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 non-profit 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.

A voice for every choir 



A choir for every voice



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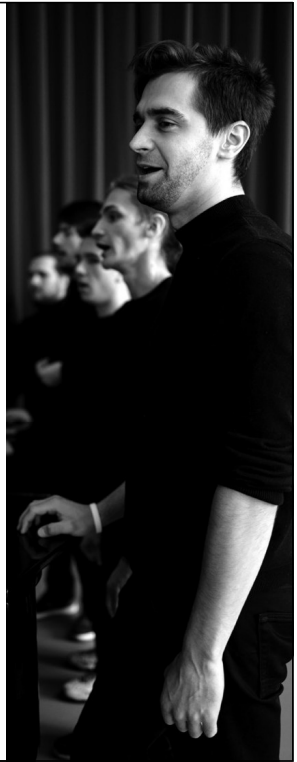
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CONCERT

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**3:00 pm**

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Sandi & Ron Mielitz

TICKETS: [www.winnipegsingers.com](http://www.winnipegsingers.com)

# SINGERS

## Junior Choir

Alaythia Backstrom, Winnipegosis  
Joanna Basanta, Winnipeg  
Avia Carmichael, Winnipeg  
Andrea Fernandez-Couto, Winnipeg  
Jamalia Doo, Winnipeg  
Kirsten Falconer, La Salle  
Rebeca Fernandez-Couto, Winnipeg  
Sofia Fernandez-Couto, Winnipeg  
Élise Fillion, Ste Anne  
Lucy Griffin, Glenboro  
Cordell Hannah, Winnipeg  
Audrey Henderson, Winnipeg  
Karli Janzen, Winnipegosis  
Rosa Knight, Winnipeg  
Anjolie Lokke, Winnipeg  
Nora Maksymowicz, Winnipeg  
Lucie Matychuk, Starbuck  
Amelia Pattie, Winnipeg  
Mia Pellicano, Winnipeg  
Zoe Pittman, Winnipeg  
Diane Ting Xiao Pu, Winnipeg  
Elodie Robert, Winnipeg  
Maria-Jean Slobodzian-Plustwa, Dauphin  
Kathleen Smith, Winnipeg  
Ravi Tilokani, Melita  
Corbyn Waller, Lenore  
Mikayla Wark, La Salle  
Laine Wilding, St. Francois Xavier

## Senior Choir

Melwin Agravante, Winnipeg  
MJ Ascough, Kleefeld  
Ellie Balfour, Steinbach  
Ayessa Lauren Bautista, Winnipeg  
Sara Bejarano Cortes, Winnipeg  
Ashley Brandt, Steinbach  
Maze Debreuil, Stonewall  
Mya Ducharme-Henderson, Winnipeg  
Caroline Fillion, Ste Anne  
Kristen Greigson, Balmoral  
Evan Griffin, Glenboro  
Megan Guglietti, Winnipeg  
Isabel Haderer, Winnipeg  
William Hamilton, Killarney  
Brooke Hill, Winnipeg  
Lily Judge, Cypress River  
Dylan Kraubner, Beausejour  
Sydney Kraubner, Beausejour  
Emery Lepp, Steinbach  
Natalia lesser, Winnipeg  
Graeme Lovett, Killarney  
Joy Lundquist, Winnipegosis  
Logan Majury, Winnipeg  
Scarlet Matychuk, Starbuck  
Maryn McGill, Cypress River  
Sarah Meggison, Goodlands  
Taylor Mondor, Lorette  
Celeste Onipe, Winnipeg  
Morgan Ozero, Winnipeg

Adalynne Pahl, Winnipeg  
Mali Parke, Winnipeg  
Dannah Pentney, Brandon  
Maya Persoage, Stonewall  
Jay Pettigrew, Winnipeg  
Elizabeth Piche, Winnipeg  
Jocelyn Place, Winnipeg  
Orie Plett, Tinker Creek  
Felicity Rempel, Austin  
Mikayla Rempel, Austin  
Gemma Sawatzky, Steinbach  
Naomi Scharf, Sanford  
Mia Smart, Stonewall  
Calli Smirl, Winnipeg  
Abigail Taylor, Winnipeg  
Eliana Thiessen, Steinbach  
Renelle Thiessen, Winnipeg  
Roslyn Thiessen, Steinbach  
Sara Thiessen, Austin  
Seoul Tilokani, Melita  
Adalynn Tupper, Fraserwood  
Ellen van Heyst, Brandon  
Presley Webb, La Salle  
Calleigh White, St Claude  
Elizabeth Wiens, Winnipegosis  
Elora Wiesner, Killarney  
Jasper Lily Wilding, St. Francois Xavier  
Kate Wilson, Libau  
Juliana Windross, Argyle



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Phone: 204-667-0521 (Rosemary)

# SINGERS

## Adult Choir

Darcia Albrechtsen, Winnipeg  
Alexis Anderson, Winnipeg  
Irene Ascough, Kleefeld  
Laura Backstrom, Winnipegosis  
Angelmarie Bambino, Winnipeg  
David Bergen, Winnipeg  
Eliza Binding, Winnipeg  
Leah Borchert, Winnipeg  
Emily Turner-Brannen, Beausejour  
Janine Brémault Bamford, Winnipeg  
Alice Britton, Winnipeg  
Jonathan Britton, Portage la Prairie  
Maureen Britton, Portage la Prairie  
Joyce Burns, Winnipeg  
Tara Cameron-Tilokani, Melita  
Courtney Campbell, Winnipeg  
Laura Campbell, Winnipeg  
Jorrel Camuyong, Winnipeg  
Meghan Capner, Winnipeg  
Carole Carlson, Winnipeg  
Sara Champagne, Landmark  
Kai Choy, Winnipeg  
Heather Clarke, Gimli  
Susan Cowtan, Winnipeg  
Sarah De Baets, Notre-Dame de Lourdes  
Sandra Delavau, Winnipeg  
Mike Diehl, Winnipeg  
Jakobson Dreamer, Winnipeg  
Alissa Dueck, Winnipeg  
Amy Dyck, Winnipeg  
Dorothy Dyck, Winnipeg  
Kris Dyck, Beausejour  
Amber Eden, Winnipeg  
Laurel Fast, Winnipeg  
Nancy Fast, Niverville  
Daelyn Fefchak, Virden  
Darrell Finnimore, Winnipeg  
Helen Fraser, Brandon  
Gwendelyn Freeheart, Niverville  
Daniel Gervai, Winnipeg  
Laurel Giesbrecht, Portage  
Jeff Green, Brandon  
Anna Griffin, Glenboro  
Kimberly Harms, Snowflake  
Mikah Harms, Snowflake  
Mackenzie Harvey, Winnipeg  
Julien HB, Winnipeg  
Verda Heinrichs, Winnipeg  
Haley Humphreys, Winnipeg  
Jodi Janzen, Winnipegosis

Fiona Jochum, St. Francois Xavier  
Michaela Jochum, Elm Creek  
Wendy Khou, Winnipeg  
Julie King, Steinbach  
Daniel Klauke, Morden  
Matt Knight, Winnipeg  
Yok Knight, Winnipeg  
Janice Koepnick, Winnipeg  
Steve Koepnick, Winnipeg  
Gayle Kolson, Winnipeg  
Dale Kraubner, Beausejour  
Julia Kraubner, Beausejour  
Kaiden Ku, Winnipeg  
Jacinta Kuhl, Roseisle  
Rhiana Kuhl, Roseisle  
Kas Kuropatwa, Winnipeg  
Taylor Kurtenbach, Inglis  
Sydney Laval, Winnipeg  
Ceilidh Lefteruk, Selkirk  
Yunjia Ling, Winnipeg  
Carol Ann Lussier, Winnipeg  
Emily Lynch, Winnipeg  
Lori Mackedenski, Portage la Prairie  
Twila MacNair, Winnipeg  
Stephanie Marks, Gimli  
Erin McCallum, Winnipeg  
Lori McCarville, Winnipeg  
Meagan McGill, Cypress River  
Jennifer McIntosh, Kenora, ON  
Sue McIntosh, Kenora, ON  
Roberta McLean, Winnipeg  
Sydney McRae, Thompson  
George Meggison, Winnipeg  
Katie Meggison, St. Adolphe  
Lauren Mitchell, Winnipeg  
Sarah Mitchell, Winnipeg  
Karyn Morrow-Penner, Oak Lake  
Karin Newman, Winnipeg  
Suzanne Newman, Winnipeg  
Nikki Nicholls, Winnipeg  
Kelsey Nicholson, Winnipeg  
Tanis Nicholson, Cypress River  
Ingrid Pedersen, Winnipeg  
Ashleigh Perkins, Winnipeg  
Sam Perrott, Saint Adolphe  
Carly Peters, Winnipeg  
Nicole Prokoppa, Winnipeg  
Shirley Reimer, Winnipeg  
Lainie Richer, Winnipeg  
Jill Romaniuk, East St. Paul  
Roberta Ronald, Winnipeg

Duncan Ross, Brandon  
Jan Ross, Brandon  
Megan Ross, Winnipeg  
Olivier Ross, Winnipeg  
Kira Rowat, Winnipeg  
Naomi Russell, Brandon  
Johanna Sachs, Winnipeg  
Leah Sanders, Manitou  
Shannon Sawatzky, Steinbach  
Elie Scharf, Gimli  
Onnolee Scharf, Sanford  
Barbara Scheuneman, Winnipeg  
David Vigier-Segal, Winnipeg  
James Sharpe, Manitou  
Sarah Sharpe, Manitou  
Will Sharpe, Manitou  
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Corinne Turner, Winnipeg  
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Wenonah vanHeyst, Brandon  
Fiona Walker, Winnipeg  
Monique Waller, Lenore  
Andrea White, La Salle  
Conner White, St. Claude  
Lynne Wichenko, Winnipeg  
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Sara Wiens, Winnipegosis  
Cal Wiese, Winnipeg  
Lucinda Williams, Winnipeg  
Carrie Wilson, Libau  
Debra Young, Winnipeg  
Diane Zielonko, Winnipeg

# DONOR RECOGNITION

MCA gratefully acknowledges the individuals, choirs, and organizations who have partnered with MCA to help us support The Singing Province since 2022!

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Bill Quinn

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Noreen Gafic  
Katy Harmer  
Vic Hooper  
Janet Isaac  
Jennifer Lang  
Sue McIntosh  
Derek Morphy  
Morna-June Morrow  
Judy Pringle  
Ed Reynolds  
Margot Sim  
Willy Slipetz  
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Bruce Waldie

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Laura Campbell  
Marie Craig

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Carolyn Farquharson  
Marla Fontaine  
Christine Gouriluk  
Sam Greve  
Cathy Horbas  
Gayle Kolson  
Anita Kroeker  
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BETHEL MENNONITE CHURCH | 465 STAFFORD ST, WINNIPEG MB

## FEATURING

Dominion Sanctuary Parish Choir, La Chorale des Intrépides, Manitoba Chinese Choir, Musica Singers, Oberih, Zoongi Ogichidaa Anishinaabe Ikwezensag Nagamoog

## TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE OR AT THE DOOR

General Admission \$15 | Students \$10

[www.mbchoralassociation.ca/intercultural-choral-festival](http://www.mbchoralassociation.ca/intercultural-choral-festival)

**ECCO SINGERS PRESENT**

*THE*  
**HERO'S  
JOURNEY**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024 3:00 PM**  
Crescent Arts Centre • 525 Wardlaw Avenue

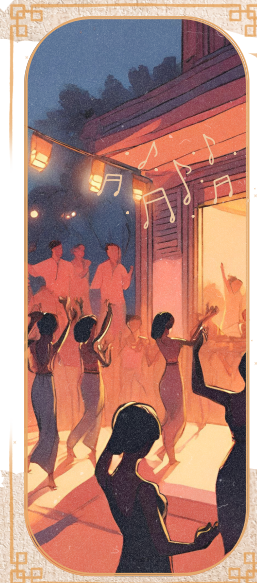
Ecco presents a musical tale of heroism and adventure. Join us for an inspiring choral performance on February 25th at Crescent Fort Rouge United Church. An afternoon of melodies that honor our community's courage, benefiting the Movement Centre of Manitoba.



**The Gala**

**SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024 6:00 PM**  
Portuguese Association of MB • 659 Young Street

Celebrate three decades of the Ecco Singers at The Gala! Enjoy a blend of classic and contemporary choral pieces, complemented by a sumptuous meal and beverages. Gather on May 4th at the Portuguese Association of Manitoba for an evening of melody and merriment.



SCAN ME

**TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT  
ECCOSINGERS.COM**