



toronto children's chorus  
Zimfira Poloz, Artistic Director

# Newsletter

March 3, 2025

## NEW CONTENT

### New Video: *Salve Regina* by Jude B. Roldan

We've just added Jude Roldan's stunning piece, ***Salve Regina***, recorded in June 2024, to our YouTube channel and the newly launched [Videos page](#) on our website. Jude is the Artistic Director, pianist, resident composer, and arranger for the Young Voices of the Philippines.

TCC's performance was showcased by publisher Cypress Choral Music to promote *Salve Regina*. Shared internationally, the video has already garnered over 7,000 views.



### Donald E. Bartle Youth Choral Fund

We are so grateful to have a new way to provide financial support to our singers. This endowment fund was established last year by TCC Founder and Conductor Laureate **Jean Ashworth Bartle** in honour of her late husband **Donald Bartle**. He was a superb musician and his commitment to music, teaching and the well-being of the choristers was evident in everything he did for the TCC community during Jean Ashworth Bartle's 29 years as Artistic Director.

The fund provides financial support towards summer touring costs, based on need, to a select number of Chamber Choir choristers. The fund is governed by the Ontario Arts Foundation and the amount

available for the TCC to disburse each year will depend on the interest earned on the endowment. The funding each applicant receives will also be based on their financial need and the number of applicants in that year.

For the 2025 tour, the fund was able to provide support to **six choristers** for a total disbursement of **\$5,000**.



Jean Ashworth Bartle and Geoff Bartle (Don's son), at the February 7, 2025 showcase concert. (Photo credit: Justin Friesen)

## Come Together in Song: Three Choirs Showcase

Our **February 7th** concert at Calvin Presbyterian Church brought together three youth choirs to share their music with each other and our audience. TCC welcomed the **St. Stanislav Youth Choir** from Ljubljana, Slovenia, conducted by **Damijan Močnik**, and the **Bulgarian Children's Choir "Orpheus"** from Haskovo, Bulgaria, conducted by **Elena Cvetkova**.

The St. Stanislav Youth Choir comes from the acclaimed St. Stanislav Institution that our Chamber Choir visited on their tour to Slovenia last summer. This concert was a reunion between TCC, Zimfira, and their conductor Damijan Močnik – and that reunion even involved some dancing!

TCC believes that contributing to our singers' growth by enabling them to meet with and listen to choirs from other parts of the world is such an important part of their education as musicians and as citizens of the world.



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Explore past newsletters, important announcements, reviews, and photos in our new [Media](#) section on the TCC website!

TCC Media  
Page

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## Guest Clinicians



Guest clinicians are an important part of our singers' musical education – learning from different conductors and educators and learning about different music traditions and styles. In this past month we have welcomed two guest clinicians to work with our singers.

On **January 31st**, **Dr. Vicki St. Pierre** worked with Chamber Choir and TCC artistic staff at rehearsal. Vicki is a longtime friend of TCC and is currently Dean of Arts and Associate Professor of Voice at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick.

This past week (the week of **February 24th**), we were thrilled to welcome Latin American choral expert **Dr. Cristian Grases**. Dr. Grases joined us from the USC Thornton School of Music, where he is a professor of choral music, conductor of the Concert Choir, and Vice Dean for the Classical Performance and Composition Division.

Throughout the week, he conducted workshops with the joint choir of TCC's Chamber Choir, the UofT Chamber Chorus, and the UofT Soprano-Alto Chorus, guiding choristers and conductors in their understanding of Latin American approaches to music-making.

On **February 27** at Trinity-St. Paul's United Church, we were honored to perform an exciting concert alongside two UofT choirs, featuring the international premiere of *Earth*, a new commission for treble voices and body percussion by Dr. Grases.

Finally, on **February 28**, we co-hosted a conducting masterclass with Choirs Ontario, supporting emerging conductors. Thanks to this collaboration, several young conductors had the invaluable opportunity to receive one-on-one coaching with Dr. Grases.

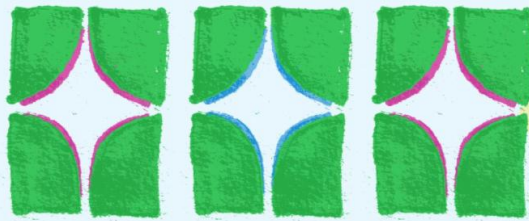


## Ontario Youth Treble Festival - Vibrance!

# VIBRANCE!

METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH  
56 QUEEN ST E, TORONTO  
MARCH 1ST, 2025 @ 7PM

ONTARIO YOUTH TREBLE FESTIVAL 2025



## FEATURING

BACH CHILDREN'S CHORUS  
CANADIAN CHILDREN'S OPERA COMPANY  
CHORUS NIAGARA CHILDREN'S CHORUS  
HAMILTON CHILDREN'S CHORUS  
MISSISSAUGA CHILDREN'S CHORUS  
OAKVILLE CHOIR FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH  
TORONTO BEACHES CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CHORUS  
TORONTO CHILDREN'S CHORUS  
YOUNG VOICES TORONTO



Congratulations to Cantare and Chorealis for representing the Toronto Children's Chorus at the Ontario Youth Treble Festival this past **Saturday, March 1!**

The Ontario Youth Treble Festival is an annual festival which brings together a number of choirs from around Southern Ontario for a day of workshops, music, and collaboration. The day was finished with the culminating concert, Vibrance!, which featured the nine choirs and concluded with a massed choir presentation conducted by **Dr. Cristian Grases**.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Zimfira is regularly asked to share her expertise and knowledge internationally

The week of **March 9th**, Zimfira heads to South Africa. She has been invited, as an international expert on children's choirs, to present a Master Class and work with the MCC Children's Choir at the international Mzansi Conductors Convention in Cape Town.

Zimfira then heads to Finland - but this time she's travelling virtually! On **April 8th**, she will present an online masterclass for the Youth Music Association in Svenskfinland: Conducting Techniques and Voice Training for Children.

Bravo Zimfira!

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

Mark your calendars and join us for these exciting upcoming performances:

### Springburst - Elmer Iseler Singers Concert

*The Elmer Iseler Singers and UofT's MacMillan Singers, featuring the Toronto Children's Chorus and other children's choirs across Toronto.*

- Saturday, March 22
- Eglinton St. George's United Church (35 Lytton Blvd)

Lydia Adams and the Elmer Iseler Singers welcome this special association with the Faculty of Music, U of T and Dr. Jamie Hillman, Elmer Iseler Chair in Conducting. Featuring the Toronto premiere of Norbert Palej's new choral work *Missa Super Terminos* with special guests, the MacMillan Singers, directed by Dr. Jamie Hillman.



Six of our Choral Scholars will join with representatives from four other major children's/youth choirs across Toronto to create the Gallery Choir for Eleanor Daley's great *Prayer for Peace*.

[Get tickets today!](#)

## Junior Treble Festival

*Featuring: Coro Training Choir*

- Saturday, April 5
- Islington United Church (25 Burnhamthorpe Rd)
- Tickets available soon!

On April 5th, our Coro Training Choir and Zimfira will join other children's choirs at the Junior Treble Festival, a half-day event that brings together young ensembles from the Greater Toronto Area for a day of music-making, meeting new choristers, and choral collaboration. This year's festival is hosted by the Mississauga Children's Choir and will feature **Cheryll Chung** as the guest conductor and clinician!



## Voices High & Low

*The Exultate Chamber Singers, featuring the TCC Chamber Choir*

- Friday, April 25
- 8:00 PM, pre-concert chat at 7:15 PM
- Calvin Presbyterian Church (26 Delisle Ave)

The TCC Chamber Choir will join Exultate Chamber Choir for their concert *Voices High and Low*. This concert will feature the world premiere of a new work by indigenous composer Sherryl Sewepagaham.

[Get tickets today!](#)

## Can You Hear Me?

*Featuring: All TCC ensembles, including KinderNotes 2*

- Sunday, May 4, 2025
- 3:00 PM
- George Weston Recital Hall, Meridian Arts Centre (5040 Yonge St)

Experience a concert that weaves together beautiful melodies and movement to express the power of connection and bring the music to life. The talented young voices of the Toronto Children's Chorus perform songs grounded in different music traditions. The engaging program includes guest instrumentalists, a piece that features sign language, and new works by Cristian Grases (Venezuela/USA), Jude Roldan (Philippines), and Tracy Wong (Malaysia/Canada).



[Tickets Available Now!](#)

## Can You Feel It?

*Featuring: TCC Chamber Choir*

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

Join TCC's international touring ensemble, the Chamber Choir, for "Can You Feel It?", an exhilarating concert that invites you to connect

deeply with music. This performance sparkles with vibrant sound and innovative arrangements, showcasing the extraordinary talent of these young musicians.



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