



Mount
Allison
Music

Music for the Earth

Saturday, November 2, 2024, 7pm @ First United Church, Truro

Cantabile Singers

Chris Bowman, artistic director

Belinda Adshade, collaborative pianist

Cantabile Children's Choir

Bette-Joan Pring, conductor

Ibukun Olomodosi, collaborative pianist

with special guests

Dr. Paul A. Aitken, composer/conductor

and the

Mount Allison University Choral Society

Dr. Kiera Galway, conductor

Get in touch with us, or come sing with us!

Facebook & Instagram: **@cantabiletruro**

Website: **www.cantabiletruro.org**

Email: **cantabiletruroinfo@gmail.com**

Cantabile Singers

I Dreamed of Rain

- Jan Garrett, arr. L. Nickel

*I dreamed of rain, and the rains came. Soft and easy, sweet and clear.
I dreamed of rain and the rains came, and peace spread over the land.*

*I dreamed of summer, and the winds changed
and the green was easy, and the rivers ran clear.
I dreamed of summer, and the winds changed,
and peace spread over the land*

*And the flowers bloom in the desert, and the air is fresh and clear
I dreamed of rain and the rains came, and peace spread over the land.*

*I dreamed of freedom, and the moon rose
And the way was easy, and the path was clear
I dreamed of freedom, and the moon rose,
and peace spread over the land.*

*And the guardian stars are shining, and the night is bright and clear.
I dreamed of freedom, and the moon rose,
and peace spread over the land*

*I dreamed of heaven, and the earth sang
And the sound was easy, and the song was clear
I dreamed of heaven, and the earth sang,
and peace spread over the land*

*And the ancient pain is forgotten, and the father's debts are clear.
I dreamed of heaven, and the earth sang,
and peace spread over the land.*

O Earth, Loving Mother - Mark Sirett, poem by Archibald Lampmann

*O earth, loving mother, nurture us, breathe in us
something of your beauty, your wisdom and your light.*

*Your ancient mountains, gleaming seas fill our hearts with care;
Through blazing sun and darkest night, breathe in us, breathe in us.*

*O earth, who was before our time, and after many years remains,
careless and blind we wander from you. Breathe in us, breathe in us.*

Easy on the Earth - Luke Wallace, arr. S. Kirchner/L. Wallace

*Easy on the earth, lightly on the water,
remember this place is for your sons and daughters,
easy on the earth, lightly on the water, remember who this place is for.*

*Yeah, get your kids to a garden, with the garden they'll grow,
and they'll learn to go easy, they'll learn to live slow,
get your kids to a garden, with the garden they'll grow,
and they'll learn to go easy, yeah.*

*And get your kids to a river, with the river they'll flow
it'll teach 'em how to paddle, it'll teach 'em how to row,
get your kids to a river, with the river they'll flow,
it'll take 'em where they need to go.*

*Let them see their reflection wherever they go,
in the rainwater, floodwater, sleet, hail, snow,
Let 'em see their reflection wherever they go...*

Walk and Touch Peace - Timothy Corlis, poem by Thich Nhất Hạnh

*Walk and touch peace at every moment.
Walk and touch happiness every moment.
Each step brings a fresh breeze.
Each step makes a flower bloom.
Kiss the Earth with your feet.
Bring the Earth your love and happiness.
the Earth will be safe when we feel safe in ourselves.*

I Will Tread Lightly - Alisa Bair and Dina Gregory

*I lay no claim upon this land, for it stood here before I came.
And I will only know a fraction of the beauty it enfolds.
I lay no claim upon this land, for it was never mine to own
when I was born into the majesty of all the life it holds.*

*These hands have never toiled to feed this ancient fertile ground,
to sow the seeds of fortune in its clay.
But the sky has shed her tears of life, the sun has spread her warmth.
The heavens keep their vigil night and day.*

So I will tread lightly... so I may leave a garden fit to grow.

*I lay no claim upon this land, for it's a world we can't replace.
And though it's far away, I hope one day my footprint leaves no trace.*

*So I will tread lightly... I'll learn to tiptoe as I go,
so I may leave a garden fit to grow.*

Mount Allison University Choral Society

Wade in the Water

- trad. Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan

*God's a gonna trouble the water.
Wade in the water, wade in the water, children.
Wade in the water. God's gonna trouble the water.*

See that host all dressed in white, The leader looks like an Israelite...

Wade in the water...

*See that band all dressed in red,
well it looks like the band that Moses led...*

Wade in the water...

Requiem

- Eliza Gilkyson, arr. C.H. Johnson

*mother mary, full of grace, awaken
all our homes are gone, our loved ones taken, taken by the sea
mother mary, calm our fears, have mercy
drowning in a sea of tears, have mercy, hear our mournful plea
our world has been shaken, we wander our homelands forsaken.
in the dark night of the soul bring some comfort to us all,
o mother mary come and carry us in your embrace
that our sorrows may be faced
mary, fill the glass to overflowing
illuminate the path where we are going
have mercy on us all*

*in fun'ral fires burning each flame to your myst'ry returning
in the dark night of the soul
your shattered dreamers, make them whole,*

*o mother mary find us where we've fallen out of grace,
lead us to a higher place
in the dark night of the soul our broken hearts you can make whole,
o mother mary come and carry us in your embrace,
let us see your gentle face, mary.*

This Pretty Planet

- Tom Chapin/John Forster

*This pretty planet spinning through space,
You're a garden, you're a harbour,
You're a holy place,*

*Golden sun going down,
Gentle blue giant spin us around.*

All through the night, safe 'til the morning light.

Cantabile Children's Choir

Grow, Little Tree

- Andrea Ramsey

Grow, little tree. Stretch your arms and spread your leaves.

What will you be?

*Grow, little tree. Wave your branches wild and free for all to see.
I'll grow too, just like you, Nurture me, I look to you for what to do.*

*Teach me how to dance, dance in the wind. Stand and soak up the sun,
and when the storm brings a shower, let the earth catch my tears
and sprout a new flower.*

The Tree Song

- Evie Karlsson

*I saw a tree by the riverside, one day as I walked along.
Straight as an arrow and pointing to the sky, growing tall and strong.
How do you grow so tall and strong, I said to the riverside tree,
This is the song that my tree friend sang to me.*

*I've got roots growing down to the water,
I've got leaves growing up to the sunshine,
and the fruit that I bear is a sign of life in me.
I am shade from the hot summer sundown,
I am nest for the birds of the heaven,
I'm becoming what the Lord of trees has meant me to be,
a strong young tree.*

*I saw a tree in the city streets, where buildings blocked the sun.
Green and lovely, I could see it gave joy to everyone.
How do you grow in the city streets, I said to the downtown tree.
This is the song that my tree friend sang to me.*

*I saw a tree in the wintertime when snow lay on the ground,
Straight as an arrow and pointing to the sky,
and winter winds blew all around.
How do you stay so tall and strong, I said to the wintertime tree,
This is the song that my tree friend sang to me.*

Like a Singing Bird

- Bob Chilcott

*My heart is like a singing bird
Whose nest is in a watered shoot;
My heart is like an apple tree
Whose boughs are bent with thickset fruit;
My heart is like a rainbow shell
That paddles in a purple sea;
My heart is gladder than all these
Because my love is come to me.*

*Raise me a dais of purple and gold;
Hang it with vair and purple dyes;
Carve it in doves and pomegranates,
And peacocks with a hundred eyes;
Work it in gold and silver grapes,
In leaves and silver fleur-de-lys;
Because the birthday of my life
Is come, my love, is come to me.*

Missa Pro Terra (world premiere)

- Paul A. Aitken

Climate Kyrie:

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy

Christe eleison

Christ, have mercy

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy

A Pure & Glorious Gloria:

In the glory of Earth's sky so high,
Where harmony dances, swirling in the sky.

We cheer for the tapestry of life's bright story,
In colours of beauty, a pure and glorious gloria.

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax homínibus bonæ voluntatis.

(Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.)

A kaleidoscope of creatures,
creatures big and creatures small,
Each one unique, like a bounce and a ball.

Lift up the Earth, hold it ever so dear,
Wishing for rivers: pure and clean and crystal clear.

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax homínibus bonæ voluntatis.

(Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.)

Spirit's embrace...kinship profound.
Tend Earth with care...our sacred ground.
Forgive our mis-steps...wisdom implore.
Harmony sought...our planet restore.

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax homínibus bonæ voluntatis.

(Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.)

Credo:

I believe in our one Earth,
On this shared orb: our cosmic tapestry birth.
A sanctuary for life, a cradle of human diversity,
And our collective worth.

I believe in humanity,
The threads that bind our space,
Transcending faith is our embrace.
We are born as stewards,
Stewards you and me.
Love's tongue unites us,
Our hearts yearn to be free.

We must face this all-together.
Hands intertwined, our fate addressed.
We must agree in one another,
Agree Earth's brink we must reject.

We must believe that all-together,
Facing ahead, and not behind.
Much more unites us than divides us,
This climate creed must now define:

factorem cæli et terræ...
natum ante omnia sæcula...
genitum non factum...
per quem omnia facta sunt...

*(maker of heaven and earth... born of the Father before all ages...
begotten, not made... by whom all things were made...)*

Sanctus / Benedictus:

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus

Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.

Hosanna in excelsis.

(Holy, holy, holy

Lord God of Hosts.

Heaven & earth are full of thy glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus qui venit

in nomine Domini.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Blessed is he that cometh

in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Oh, Earth so dear: our enchanted haven,
Where skies and lands stir in a dance unshaken.
In nature's embrace a tapestry unfolds.
Honour and love to you: essence pure, untold.

Shower blessings upon those with hearts sincere,
Committed to heal and restore: to heal and restore and hold dear.
As a child of the Earth, I dream and explore,
Hope rises like mountains; Earth's spirit to adore.

Under the azure sky where dreams take flight,
Nature's wonders weave tales: gentle and bright.
With each step that I take on this sacred ground,
I am the HOPE,
I am the FUTURE,
I am the ECHO of a JOYFUL SOUND.

Agnus Dei / Dona Nobis Pacem

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Consider a donation to the Cantabile Society:

**<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/cantabile-choral-society/>
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(tax receipts available; CRA registered business #118837384RR0001)

Cantabile Choral Society Board and Administrative Staff:

Helen Bell (chair), Chris Bowman (ex officio), Marie Braedley, Kerrie Coady, Joy Hewitt (choir administrator/ex officio), Barb Main (past chair), Jennifer McKay, Beth Peterkin, Danielle Richard (secretary), Cat Taylor (treasurer)

The **Mount Allison University Choral Society** is a non-auditioned choir of mixed voices with a membership of approximately 65 members, led by Dr. Kiera Galway. Singers typically include students enrolled in Music and other Mount Allison programs, faculty and staff members from the University community, as well as singers from the Sackville, Amherst and Moncton areas. All are welcome!

Dr. Paul A. Aitken (b. 1970) is an accomplished freelance composer, conductor, and the Director of Music Emeritus at the Cathedral of the Rockies in Boise, Idaho.

Recognized for his work in the choral arts, Aitken achieved notable milestones in his career. He made history as the inaugural winner of the ACDA Brock Student Composition Competition with his masterful composition, "Flanders Fields." In addition, he was honoured with the renowned Chronos Vocal Ensemble Prize in 2018 for his captivating piece, "Au clair de la lune," and his autobiographical composition, "How Can I Keep from Singing," earned him the prestigious 2021 American Prize in Choral Music.

Aitken's expertise and artistry are in high demand, and he receives commissions from organizations such as the American Guild of Organists, the Boise Philharmonic Master Chorale, and the Brazos Valley Chorale. A true highlight of his career was his remarkable Carnegie Hall debut in 2010, where he conducted his cantata, "And None Shall Be Afraid." He returned to the illustrious Carnegie Hall stage in May 2023, enthraling audiences with a set of his choral/orchestral works.

Aitken's musical compositions are widely recognized and published by several music publishers, including Alfred Music, Cypress Music, Paraclete Press, or through his official website, www.paulaitkenmusic.com.

In addition to his musical accomplishments, Dr. Aitken is a dedicated lifetime member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). He has served in various leadership roles at the State, Division, and National levels, including his tenure as the National Chair of Music in Worship. Aitken is also a member of Choral Canada and is an Associate Composer with the Canadian Music Centre.

Dr. Aitken holds degrees from esteemed institutions such as the University of Western Ontario, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and the University of Oklahoma. Since 2020, he and his wife, MacKenzie, have made their home in the captivating landscapes of Nova Scotia, Canada. They are proud owners and operators of the historic Maple Inn Parrsboro, a charming eight-bed boutique hotel situated along the picturesque and historically significant Bay of Fundy.

Christopher Bowman (M. Mus Memorial University, B. Mus Mount Allison University) enjoys making music in many forms – as a conductor, solo and choral singer, educator, and composer. He is full-time Minister of Music at First United Church in Truro, Nova Scotia, and Artistic Director of the Cantabile Society of Truro, where he conducts the Cantabile Singers and works with the Cantabile children’s choirs. He also sings with the Juno-nominated Canadian Chamber Choir and takes great delight in the fact that choral music has given him the opportunity to sing in every Canadian province. Chris is active as a baritone soloist; his debut CD “Over Hill and Valley” with pianist David Chafe won Music NS and Music NL awards, and was nominated for an East Coast Music Award.

Chris loves working with choral singers of all ages and stages, and has conducted community, church, school, and university choirs in Atlantic Canada and Ontario. He is sought after as a clinician, adjudicator, and lecturer, and has taught in various university music departments in Atlantic Canada as a sessional instructor. As time permits, he is a composer/arranger of choral music, and in recent years has become interested in hymn writing; he and Valerie Kingsbury have written dozens of pieces of music for use in liturgical settings under the ‘Tidal Bore Music’ banner.

Chris’ favourite musical collaborations, however, are with his wife Laura, and their children Erica and Meredith. They live in Valley, Nova Scotia.

Belinda Adshade grew up in Truro, NS and is thankful for a rich musical heritage that began with singing and playing in her church, and continued with her training in voice and piano locally, and as a music student at Acadia University. Appreciated for her sensitive playing, Belinda has been accompanying soloists and groups since she was a teenager. She taught voice and piano privately for over thirty years in several Maritime towns, until her retirement in 2020.

Belinda has worked with numerous choirs in her role as a Music Director for various churches in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. While residing in Miramichi, NB, she was additionally given the opportunity to teach music at Millerton School, and to accompany and direct the community choir known as The Villagers. A former singer with Cantabile, Belinda is pleased to have the opportunity to be a part of the current artistic team. Belinda currently resides in Bible Hill, close to her two adult children and three grandchildren.

Bette-Joan Pring studied Voice Performance and Piano at Wilfrid Laurier University from 1988-1992. Following those years, she worked as a private vocal and piano instructor for many years, beginning in Burlington, ON and then in the Truro, NS from 1999 to present. Additional involvement as a collaborative pianist provided Bette with the opportunity to partner with the Tatamagouche Area Singers beginning in 2009, before taking over the role as Artistic Director in 2011 – a role which she continues to hold in their community. She further added to her choral involvements when she was invited to assume the role of Artistic Director of the First Baptist Girls' Choir in 2012 – a role she carried on until the choir's close (under the name – Colchester Girls' Choir) in 2023. This time was also paired with the role of Music Director for First Baptist Church Truro from 2012-2016. Her time with FBGC/CGC would see the choir achieve several provincial honours with FMFNS and enjoy the opportunity to premiere multiple original works.

Bette looks forward to her involvement with the Cantabile Children's Choir. It is her desire to see a flourishing children and youth choral program through which mentorship and apprenticeship programs can foster young musicians into lifelong lovers of music.

Bette is employed fulltime with the Canadian Armed Forces as a Financial Service Administrator. Bette and her husband, Darren, make their home in East Mountain, NS together with their 3 children.

Ibukun Olomodosi is a Nigerian pianist, composer, and music director. His music captivates audiences with its delicacy and thoughtful humor. Adding a unique perspective to his vocal and instrumental arrangements. In 2014, he obtained a certificate in music technology from The Polytechnic Ibadan; in 2018, he earned a degree in music from the University of Lagos; and in 2023, he obtained a masters in piano performance and pedagogy from Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Ibukun is a unique pianist who specialises in both classical and contemporary music. He oscillates between improvisation and composition. From solo to quartet, he presents a performance that demonstrates his passion for classical, improvised, and instrumental music. His musical arrangements also show his interest in African pianism and choral compositions. He has played in a number of concerts and music festivals, such as the Global Music Series in Newfoundland, and he has composed both vocal and instrumental pieces for performance.